

Human body worth P2.38B, says US mag



NEW YORK—It may be illegal, immoral and certainly ill-advised, but selling every usable part of your body could fetch upward of \$45 million (P2.38 billion), according to a survey in the August issue of Wired magazine.

HUMAN/A16

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P15

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'Sin wants GMA to run'

Cardinal's unsolicited advice bared by Mike A.

By Blanche S. Rivera and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo's husband yesterday disclosed Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's "unsolicited advice" for his wife; that she run in next year's elections.

"Please tell Gloria I insist that she run," the influential cardinal was quoted as saying Thursday in a statement issued by the Office of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo. "She should start going around the countryside."

But the Archdiocese of Manila said yesterday that Sin's remarks were "a light-hearted comment" and not an endorsement.

The scene, supposedly witnessed by five people, was a 20-minute meeting at the cardinal's residence, the Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong City, where Arroyo turned over a P1-million donation for the vocation of priests and nuns.

Arroyo's office said the P1 million was part of the funds raised during the First Gentleman's Cup golf tournament held recently at Wack-Wack.

"I was stunned but happy because the cardinal has the gift of prophecy," Arroyo was quoted yesterday as saying by The Associated Press. "That is his message to her, and I will convey his message to her."

Asked whether he thought his wife would win, he said: "Of course, of course."

The Archdiocese of Manila confirmed the statement issued by Arroyo's office. But at a press briefing, the President's spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said that she remained firm in her decision not to

SIN/A18

KL can't host gov't-MILF talks unless...

MALAYSIA would be unable to host peace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front until Manila stopped treating MILF peace negotiators as terrorist fugitives.

And official sources said Malaysia had expressed concern that should the talks fail, the rebel negotiators would have no recourse but to seek political asylum in Kuala Lumpur.

Malaysia earlier offered to host the talks but Kuala Lumpur has urged Manila to lift the arrest warrants and bounties against senior MILF officials so that talks to

KL/A16



THIS is a file photo of the First Gentleman obtaining Jaime Cardinal Sin's blessing, as President Macapagal looks on, during a courtesy call by the First Couple on the Manila archbishop at Villa San Miguel in Mandaluyong City. The occasion was Mr. Arroyo's birthday on June 27, 2002.

Erap sees FPJ running in '04 with Gringo

By Armand Nocom

ACTOR Fernando Poe Jr. is now inclined to run for the presidency—or so his famous best friend says.

"It's more of 'yes' na ngayon (now)," deposed President Joseph Estrada told the INQUIRER on Thursday night.

Estrada, who is detained at the

Veterans Memorial Medical Center on plunder and other charges, is seeking to play the role of kingmaker, in choosing the opposition's standard-bearer in 2004.

Estrada said he preferred Poe over other close friends Sen. Panfilo Lacson and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco. Among his reasons: what he called Poe's strong winnability,

and their 40 years of friendship.

"Lacson is winnable, but he will be cheated," he said.

Doing his election math, Estrada said he foresees the possibility that the administration party Lakas-CMD will do everything to win, including cheat.

"Lacson can win by a margin of one to two million votes. But FPJ, like me, can easily win with a six-

million margin. They cannot cheat him," he said.

In 1998, Estrada topped a crowded field of presidential candidates with almost 11 million votes. Speaker Jose de Venecia came in second, with more than 5 million votes.

In the event that Poe finally decides not to run, Estrada said he

ERAP/A18



DANTE ANG shows proof of his Filipino citizenship to the media, a photocopy of his birth certificate. He dared his critics to file a case in court.

ERIK ARAZAS

DOJ to probe Ang citizenship

By Philip Tubeza

THE Department of Justice will conduct a formal inquiry into the citizenship of Dante Ang, the publisher of The Manila Times and one-time "personal publicist" of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"There are claims that Mr. Dante Ang is not a Filipino citizen but is a Chinese citizen. We'll have to conduct an investigation and find out really what is the status of Mr. Ang in the Philippines and find out what is his citizenship," said DOJ Undersecretary Merceditas Gutierrez.

"Give us time to look into his

DOJ/A18

President may resume judicial executions

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday hinted that she may allow the resumption of judicial executions to bolster the government's campaign against illegal drugs.

"I shall make a decision on the possible re-imposition of the death penalty on the basis of moral principles and due process," the President said in a statement.

"I am prepared to exercise utmost political will to beat this menace in accord with a sound and just moral compass," she said, following a snowballing clamor from various interest groups for the death penalty to be restored to check the alarming rise in the activities of drug pushers and international drug syndicates.

But the President said it was important to listen to all sides of the debate on capital punishment.

She stressed that any revival of capital punishment would have to include measures to ensure that "those who are condemned to death are indeed notorious drug lords and not small-time drug pushers."

Only the other day, president-

PRESIDENT/A17



DANTE TINGA: GMA's seventh appointee to the high tribunal.

PD PHOTO

GMA names Dante Tinga to high court

By Juliet Javellana with Chona Galang PDI Research

THE PRESIDENT appointed former Congressman Dante Tinga to the Supreme Court yesterday, bringing to seven the total number of Macapagal appointees in the 15-member high court.

Tinga, who represented the Taguig-Pateros district for three consecutive terms from 1987 to 1998, replaced retired Associate Justice Vicente Mendoza.

"Only one of the five nominees got a unanimous vote from the JBC (Judicial and Bar Council). He's the one I appointed," President Macapagal-Arroyo announced to reporters during a

GMA/A18

DOLE orders firm: Pay 'sleepless' workers P5.8M

By Martin P. Marfil

A GARMENTS factory accused of violating labor laws and offering a weight-loss drug to its workers to keep them awake was ordered yesterday to pay the workers P5.8 million in back wages and unpaid benefits.

According to the compliance order issued by Maximino Lim, re-

gional director of the Department of Labor and Employment, Anvil Ensembles should pay each of the 137 complaining workers P42,679.70 for the three-year period covered. The complaint was filed several months earlier by the factory workers.

The DOLE also ordered Anvil management to submit payrolls and pertinent documents on So-

cial Security Service remittances, proof of coverage of Pag-Ibig, Home Development and the Mutual Fund law, certificates of training from the Red Cross, and provisions for personal protective equipment.

Lim said Anvil's failure to comply with these directives would result in "necessary action ... for criminal prosecution."

The compliance order was issued a day after the DOLE sent a team of inspectors to the factory in Taytay, Rizal, to look into allegations that Anvil management had failed to comply with labor laws and offered its workers the insomnia-inducing Duromine drug during 48- to 72-hour work shifts, to enable them to meet production quotas.

The INQUIRER ran a special report on Wednesday detailing the workers' complaints.

The team of inspectors, which included two doctors, recommended that drug tests be conducted on Anvil workers.

But according to the report signed by team leader Dr. Melba Sacro, Anvil management offi-

DOLE/A16



WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/07/05/03

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Second FRONT PAGE

Metro Manila Partly Cloudy
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Laosang Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi Cloudy with Rains
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Davao Cloudy with Rains

TO RUN OR NOT TO RUN

Danding still thinking it over

*If turnaround is 'doable,'
Danding will run—Sotto*

By Christine Avendaño and Carlito Pablo

FOR UNITY.

Opposition Sen. Vicente Sotto III said yesterday the recent meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco may have had to do with the latter's bid to find out if it was possible to unite the country's political leaders.

"He (Cojuangco) is starting to explore the possibility of cooperation among the political parties," Sotto said.

President Macapagal, who co-chairs Lakas-CMD, and Cojuangco, president of the Nationalist People's Coalition, met one-on-one in Malacañang last Wednesday. Their parties belong to the ruling coalition.

Sotto told the INQUIRER that when he attended Cojuangco's birthday party in the United States last month, the businessman had expressed a desire to find out if it was possible to unite all the political parties.

This is because Cojuangco believes a "united approach to politics is not impossi-

ble and is the only way to achieve an economic turnaround," Sotto said.

He reiterated his belief that if Cojuangco determines there is something he could do to turn the economy around, then he will be a candidate in 2004.

"If it's doable, he will run," Sotto said.

Meanwhile, two of Cojuangco's allies in the House said the San Miguel Corp. chair is embarking on provincial sorties this month to test the waters for 2004.

Reps. Jacinto Paras (Negros Oriental) and Prospero Nograles (Davao City), both with Lakas-CMD, said in separate interviews that Cojuangco wants to feel the public pulse for himself.

Cojuangco ran for president in 1992 but lost.

"He (Cojuangco) wants to hear it straight from the people," Paras said.

"It's time for Danding to go out and touch base with his political leaders in the field," Nograles said. "This would also mean that he will be included in the [presidential] surveys and his ratings would go up."

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BAKOLOD CITY—Business tycoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco yesterday declined to comment on his meeting last Wednesday with President Macapagal-Arroyo, except to say that they did not discuss the 2004 presidential election.

"I think she already [revealed] what we talked about [and] I wouldn't want to add more," the San Miguel Corp. chair told the INQUIRER in an interview yesterday.

Asked if he thought Ms Macapagal would run for president, Cojuangco said: "I don't know... I don't know. We didn't talk about actual politics anyway."

Meeting

Ms Macapagal and Cojuangco met for a few minutes at Villamor Airbase in Pasay City before the President addressed the 56th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Air Force.

"What happened was they touched base. All preliminaries... no commitments were made," Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero, NPC spokesperson,

had said of the meeting between the President and Cojuangco.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye at first denied the meeting had taken place, but he later backtracked, saying, "They discussed strengthening the administration coalition in the House."

"There was no time to discuss other matters," he added.

On his own plans for 2004, Cojuangco yesterday stressed he was still undecided about making a run for the presidency. He said he would make an announcement sometime in August or September.

Strong lobby

Amid the strong lobby of his allies from various sectors, Cojuangco said he needs to "really think it over" because "the situation now and in '92 are quite different."

Cojuangco ran for president in 1992 but lost. That election was won by Fidel V. Ramos.

"I also want to go around and get the feel of the masses of our people because they are ones that matter the most," Cojuangco said. (See related story on this page.)

"I have to make sure that if I do run I can truly make the lives of each and

every Filipino better," he told the INQUIRER.

Cojuangco was interviewed at the University of St. La Salle in Bacolod City where he and his wife, Gretchen, were among those who were awarded the Medallion de Coeur Lasallien.

'Instruments, partners'

The couple was cited for being "God's instruments and partners in the tangible act of nation-building through the Lasallian mission of evangelization, through education in the public school sector."

The awarding rites were the culminating celebration of USLS's golden jubilee year.

The Cojuangcos gave a grant of P16 million which enabled 1,008 public school teachers from the fourth district of Negros Occidental to obtain their masters and doctorate degrees under Project FREE (Flagships to Reach Educational Excellence) which is administered by USLS.

On his being favored as a presidential candidate in a recent survey of businessmen, Cojuangco said he has not seen the poll results but he was thankful to the people who have put their trust and confidence in him.

'No secret deal on coco levy funds'

By Dona Pazzibugan

BUSINESS tycoon Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. has denied that there was any secret agreement or compromise settlement involving the disputed coconut levy funds between the Macapagal administration and himself.

Cojuangco, who is chair and CEO of the San Miguel Corp., claimed in a statement to have been pressing for the "expeditious resolution" of the cases instituted against him by the Presidential Commission on Good Government, the agency tasked with the recovery of ill-gotten wealth from the family and associates of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Cojuangco, an alleged crony of Marcos, said none of his properties were acquired with the use of the coco levy funds.

"The assets acquired with the use of coconut levy funds are either in the name of Coconut Industry Investment Fund companies or individual coconut farmers," Cojuangco said in the statement.

Maverick administration Sen. Joker Arroyo earlier claimed that Malacañang had entered into a secret deal with Cojuangco to settle the ownership dispute over the coconut levy funds.

Yesterday, the PCGG finally broke its silence over the Arroyo expose, calling a press conference to announce that it would shoot down any compromise agreement with Cojuangco.

PCGG Commissioners Ruben Carranza and Vyva Aguirre reiterated the agency's hardline stance against entering into any compromise with Cojuangco over the coco levy cases now pending in the Sandiganbayan.

Carranza said any compromise deal will have to go through the PCGG.

"And as far as this PCGG is concerned, particularly Chairman Haydee Yorac, there will be no compromise for us," he said.

Carranza said they did not comment on Ar-

royo's disclosure earlier because they were leaving it up to Malacañang to answer Arroyo's denunciations.

But Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye simply passed the buck to the PCGG.

The coconut levy funds, now amounting to P100 billion, were collected from coconut farmers as a forced tax through a Marcos decree between 1973 to 1982. Marcos appointed Cojuangco as the administrator of the funds.

The PCGG and the country's coconut farmers claim that Cojuangco and his associates had allegedly used the funds to acquire ownership and control of SMC, the United Coconut Planters Bank and various coconut-related businesses grouped under the CIIF.

The Supreme Court in a landmark 2001 decision ruled that the coco levy funds were "public in character" but left it up to the Sandiganbayan to decide who owned the assets acquired with the funds.

The high court directed the Sandiganbayan to decide the cases early this year but the anti-graft court has yet to do so.

"Our position is that we will not compromise on these cases. We're submitting the cases for decision," Carranza said.

Carranza and Aguirre denied that Malacañang has ever attempted to ask the PCGG to go easy on Cojuangco.

"To be fair to the Office of the President, as far as the litigation of these cases is concerned, [the PCGG] has been left to decide how to handle these cases," Carranza said.

"We've never received any pressure as far as any cases are concerned," Aguirre said.

GMA on Lastimoso: He did his best, but...

By Juliet Labog-Javellana
and Amy R. Remo

AFTER sacking him as chief of the Land Transportation Office, President Macapagal-Arroyo said yesterday there was no point in blaming Roberto Lastimoso for all the ills in the agency.

"He did his best but he was apparently overwhelmed by the morass of problems," the President said in a statement.

Ms Macapagal said Lastimoso will be on leave from the LTO by July 15 and will "assume his new post" as assistant secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communication after that. She did not elaborate, but concurrent with his stint at the LTO, Lastimoso was already an assistant secretary at the DOTC.

The President at the same time ordered Lastimoso's replacement as officer in charge, Transportation Undersecretary Agustin R. Bengzon, to overhaul the LTO.

"Undersecretary Bengzon shall do a systematic review of the agency and recommend the measures necessary to improve its effectiveness and integrity," the President said.

Press Secretary Milton Alingod confirmed that President Maca-

pagal had replaced Lastimoso with Bengzon, undersecretary for special concerns at the DOTC.

But yesterday, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ms Macapagal had merely approved the leave of absence filed by Lastimoso to take effect on July 16.

Bunye said an OIC is named whenever the head of a government agency goes on leave.

Bunye also would not confirm if Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board chair Dante Lantin had been removed from office.

"We make announcements based on confirmed reports and official communication. We have not received any information to that effect," Bunye said.

Transport groups, meanwhile, expressed mixed reactions over the firing of Lastimoso.

To Efrén de Luna, president of the Philippine Confederation of Drivers and Operators Alliance of Concerned Transport Organizations (PCDO-ACTO), it was old news.

"We weren't surprised. We already knew Lastimoso was going to be fired when we had a dialogue with President Macapagal last month," De Luna told the INQUIRER.

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At 75, Guingona going for No. 1

WHILE marking his 75th birthday yesterday, Vice President Teofisto Guingona hinted he might just take a stab at the presidency next year.

While he has stopped counting the years, he was far from quitting the fight, Guingona said in remarks that sounded like an electoral battle cry after the Thanksgiving Mass at his office yesterday.

"I will continue to fight for the principles that I believe in. I will continue to fight for the Filipinos, 68 percent of whom, according to the latest statistics, are very poor," he said.

Asked if continuing the fight meant that he was running for president, Guingona said it may well "include that."

But he said his political plans for 2004 were not yet definite.

Guingona, who is the ruling Lakas-CMD president, yesterday called on the party's executive committee "to settle once and for all" the issue of the party's standard bearer for 2004.

"Knowing politics in this country, unless there is a chosen nominee for president, it is very hard to organize, so the earlier we settle this issue, the better it will be for the party," he said.

He said statements coming from the Palace indicated that President Macapagal-Arroyo intended to completely reverse herself and seek a full term in 2004.

The Vice President has repeatedly called on Malacañang to make a definite stand on the President's political plans for 2004.

Asked what the Lakas-CMD would do if Ms Macapagal decides to run despite an earlier declaration that she would not, Guingona said: "That would be up to Lakas. I have my own plans."

Guingona also told reporters that the visit in October of US President George Bush and the possible candidacy of Ms Macapagal "are entirely different matters."

"The Bush visit is a foreign visit of a friendly leader of the most powerful nation on earth. We have our own sovereignty. The visit of Mr. Bush should not be linked to our country's choice of who will be our next President," he said. **Norman Bordadora**

Lawyers seek inventory of drug cases

A LAWYERS' group yesterday called for a nationwide inventory of drug cases that have been filed in the past six years, noting that about 30 percent of such cases were dismissed by the courts because of alleged collusion among policemen and state chemists.

The Equal Justice for All (E-Just) Movement, led by lawyer Leonard de Vera, said the failure of law enforcement agencies to curb the drug trade was not because of the supposed recycling of the seized substances like methamphetamines and marijuana.

Senate President Franklin Drilon on Tuesday called for a nationwide inventory of prohibited substances as part of a formal inquiry into reports that confiscated drugs were being resold in the streets.

"The problem does not stop there," said De Vera.

He said the status of the drug cases filed by prosecutors should be included in the inventory to check whether "procedural loopholes" led to their dismissal.

"We need to know how many cases were filed. Then from there we can ascertain how many cases led to conviction or to dismissal," said De Vera.

De Vera pointed out that based on his experience and that of other lawyers like him, many cases involving violations of the Dangerous Drugs Act were dismissed outright because of the non-appearance in the court trials of the policemen who conducted the drug raids or carried out the buy-bust operations, and the government chemists who inspected the confiscated drugs.

"So if I'm the accused, I'll just bribe the policemen and chemists not to attend the trial," said De Vera. **Michael Lim Ubac**

Aussie PM due July 13

SYDNEY—Australian Prime Minister John Howard announced Friday that he will visit the Philippines, Japan and South Korea later this month for talks with their leaders focusing on terrorism, the North Korean nuclear crisis and Iraq.

He will also use the visit to promote commercial links with each of the three countries, Howard said in a statement.

Howard will spend three days from July 13 to 15 in the Philippines where he will meet President Macapagal-Arroyo and senior aides to discuss cooperation to combat terrorism.

He will also address a major Asia Society function on regional security issues and meet Australian and Filipino business leaders.

Howard will meet Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in his visit to Japan on July 15 and go on to South Korea on July 17 during which he will meet President Roh Moo-hyun. **APP**

Almario 'Mar' Angeles; 59

ALMARIO "Mar" Angeles, 59, of Parang, Marikina, died on Saturday.

Mar Angeles was the former executive vice president and finance director of DY&R Alcantara. He was with Scyp, Gorres & Velayo prior his joining DY&R.

His remains lie at their family residence at No. 11 Sumulong Street, Parang, Marikina.

Interment will be today at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after a 1 p.m. Mass at the Tanong Chapel in Tanong, Marikina.

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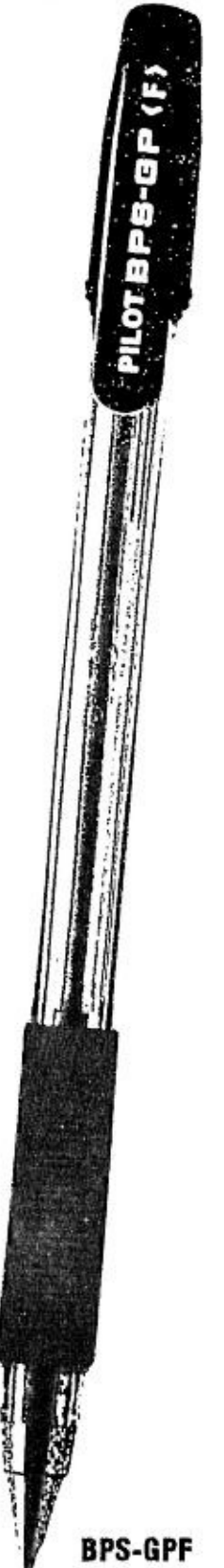
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GMA appoints Jaylo to PDEA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo announced yesterday that she has appointed former Senior Supt. Reynaldo Jaylo to the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

The President said Jaylo will go after the "big fish" in the government's anti-illegal drugs campaign.

Ms Macapagal announced Jaylo's appointment while inspecting Central Police District Station 7 in C amp Panopio, Quezon City. The President queried the police authorities about their anti-illegal drugs campaign and was told that half of Metro Manila's illegal drug problem was in Cubao, within the station's jurisdiction.

(See related story on Page A19.)

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- This raffle promo is open to all buyers of the KIA KC2700 (all variants) nationwide as follows:
 - Financing buyers who have applied until September 19, 2003, get approved and make a downpayment until September 25, 2003 will be issued a raffle coupon.
 - Cash buyers who made their full payment until the end of the promo period will be issued a raffle coupon.
- Financing buyers may avail of the 20% to 50% downpayment from 12 to 60 months term; and 50% downpayment with 0% interest for 12 mos. term.
- All financing applications are subject to bank approval.
- The buyer should fill up all the entries on the raffle coupon and drop it at the dropbox located at the KIA dealership where he bought his KC2700 vehicle. Raffle coupons that were not completely filled up will be disqualified from the raffle.
- Deadline of submission of entries is until the end of business hours of September 25, 2003.
- The raffle draw will be held at KIA Motors, Phils., Km. 16 West Service Rd., Bicutan, Parangana City on September 30, 2003.
- The raffle prizes are as follows:
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US tribunal won't stay sick Pinoy's expulsion

WASHINGTON—The Supreme Court refused Thursday to stop the government from deporting a man who says he cannot get the life-saving medical treatment he needs in his home country.

The justices, without comment, rejected Jolly Santiago's request for an emergency stay. He is being deported to the Philippines.

Santiago is in the custody of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement in Columbia, South Carolina.

His lawyers said he needs three four-hour kidney dialysis treatments a week, but will only be able to receive two treatments a month because of the cost.

"Simply put, he could die within a matter of months," his attorney W. Carl Lietz III of Atlanta, told justices in a filing.

The Bush administration had said there was at least one dialysis clinic that could give him free or reduced-price care in the Philippines. AP

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OPINION

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Awake

IT'S a page straight from Charles Dickens, the only difference being that there are no ragged children in it. But there are ragged men and women.

To keep its workers awake while they sew babies' clothes for export to America, a factory in Taytay, Anvil Ensembles, has hit on a novel idea. The original one did not prove good enough: that was to have someone go around rapping with a stick the tables of workers who were dozing off. It startled them to wakefulness but not for long. They dozed off again soon afterward.

The new method was more effective. That was to offer the workers clinging to the last straw of wakefulness a drug called Duromine. The drug is normally used to fight off fat but the owners of Anvil Ensembles discovered (how they did so, only they can say) that it is more effective fighting off sleep. On the face of it, the workers are not forced to take the drug. But on the pit of it, they have precious little choice. They do not keep awake, they do not keep their jobs.

But why are the workers sleepy all the time? Are they lazy? Do they not get enough sleep at home from watching too much TV or staying out late at night in karaoke bars?

None of the above. They are sleepy because they work sometimes for three days at a stretch. The garments factory exports clothes on a seasonal basis. Working on a tight schedule during peak season, it hires people—though that is not how it treats them—to sew at record speeds without sleeping for days. It currently has more than 400 of them, mostly women, which it is paying at less than half the minimum wage. Supervisors constantly remind the conscripts that to slip out of consciousness is to slip out of work. The more imaginative supervisors remind them as well that their looks and inability to speak English have not prepared them for an alternative life as prostitutes or overseas Filipino workers.

Thankfully, the workers have found the courage to complain, and their case is now pending with the Department of Labor. We do not know how many labor laws Anvil Ensembles has broken, but it cannot be a few. That is quite apart from other laws, chief of them drug laws, which President Macapagal-Arroyo has been pleased to announce she is enforcing.

It is no small poetic justice that with the publication of this story, the owners and officials of Anvil Ensembles, who are nowhere to be found, are probably now having quite a few sleepless nights. But this is not a case that can be left only to the justice of poets. It calls for the justice of the courts, too. We can only hope the Department of Labor will see eye to eye with the Department of Justice on this and make sure the wrongdoers are haled to court. Indeed, make sure that where they are going, they will have precious little to do but sleep.

Asleep

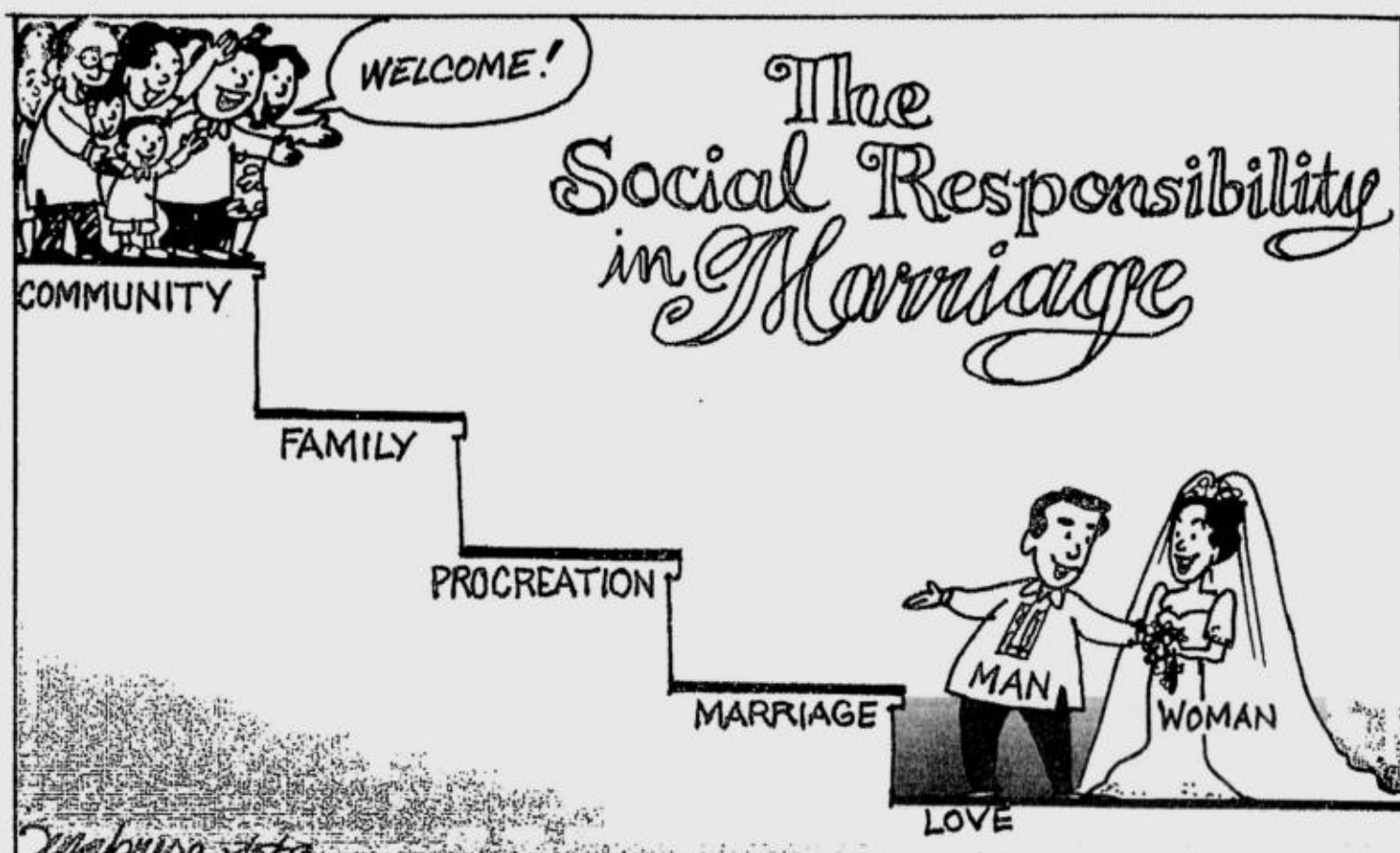
WE remember that some years ago, there was a story about a firecrackers factory in Bulacan that was using child labor on pretty much the same basis as Anvil Ensembles. The kids, some of them below 10 years old, also worked almost round the clock and got paltry sums for their pains.

They did get to get some sleep, but on the floor in fetid quarters with the door padlocked to prevent them from leaving. As one young teen who escaped (that is the correct word) from this labor camp (that is the correct word, too) narrated later, they could not sleep anyway from fear that in the event of a fire—firecrackers are incendiary—they would all burn to death.

Incredible as it may seem, we still have sweatshops like this. And probably they are more common than we think, times having gotten harder, people being more desperate for work and the authorities more willing to look the other way. The differences may only be in degree. Other factories may not try to keep their workers awake round the clock for days or keep children imprisoned inside the work area at night, but they do exploit them ruthlessly as well. The minimum wage and overtime laws are more honored in the breach than in the observance.

While other countries are coming out to greet the 21st century, we are digging in to greet the 19th. All this must suggest that the No. 1 problem of this country, which seems to have gotten lost in the haze of battle, real or invented, is neither drugs nor terrorism. It remains old-fashioned (as in Industrial-Revolution old) grinding poverty. What this country needs are not more jet fighters and armored vehicles, it is more food and freedom. What this country needs is not more anti-drug units and czars, it is more jobs and justice.

You wonder sometimes if government is not walking in its sleep.



The end and the means

SEPARATE
OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



grettably, their mental potentials for a useful life.

But for all the enthusiasm we may feel now, and the hopes for the success of the new campaign despite the understandable cynicism of many others, the anti-drug team should be cautioned about its operations.

It must respect the Bill of Rights without exception, no matter how shocking the crime and disreputable the suspect. Under the police power, the end does not justify the means—both the means and the end must be lawful. The leper cannot be arbitrarily executed to prevent the spread of his disease; even if the purpose is to protect the many, the Constitution makes that lone individual a majority of one. And no less so is the drug trafficker, no matter how despicable...

Fred Lim's spray-painting of the houses of supposed drug pushers during his term as mayor of Manila must have been the reason for his non-inclusion in the new anti-drug team. His act was declared unconstitutional by the Court of Appeals on Jan. 26, 2000. The case was appealed to the Supreme Court, which could have decided it on the merits but instead, dismissed it in a minute resolution on Feb. 1, 2001, on "technical grounds." The high tribunal took one year to discover that ridiculous excuse that, at any rate, left the appealed CA decision intact, unreversed, and therefore the ruling doctrine.

That unanimous decision written by Justice Bernardo P. Abesamis declared Lim's act, and the city ordinance that retroactively validated it, violative of due process, the equal protection clause, the prohibition against cruel, degrading and inhuman punishment, and the constitutional presumption of innocence. It said in part:

"...The spray-painting authorized under the ordinance is as though all the occupants of the house are already guilty of the crime even before trial and before conviction. The guilty verdict is pronounced not by a court of law but by the provisions of the assailed ordinance. In the event the person subjected to the 'shame campaign' is later found innocent after due trial, if his case is dismissed after due preliminary investigation for want of probable cause, and is ordered released after arrest, the indignity and humiliation and stigma suffered by the innocent person is irreparable."

If I may be permitted a little immodesty, the decision, in holding the petitioners to be proper parties, quoted one of my dissenting opinions on the issue thus:

"I believe that when liberty is involved, every person, even if he is not directly injured, is a proper party. It is not only the owner of the burning house who has the right to call the firemen. Everyone has the right, and responsibility, to prevent the fire from spreading even if he lives in the other block."

This should serve to stress that the campaign against dangerous drugs is not the task alone of the anti-drug team; it is everyone's responsibility to help defeat this terrible scourge of our generation. Each one of us must denounce and resist the wicked schemes of the drug trafficker to reduce us to a helplessly addicted nation.

How Gore was cheated

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



VOTING irregularities that led to a presidential candidate being cheated out of the presidency, government officials lying about their activities, overpriced projects awarded to favored clients, suppression of the truth, blatant disregard of court decisions, media reluctance to run with a story. Another page in the electoral history of the Philippines? It could well be; these are familiar occurrences, after all.

Not this time. These events occurred in the good old US of A—in Florida to be exact. This, according to Greg Palast, an American investigative reporter—Tribune Magazine in Britain considers him "the greatest investigative reporter of our time"—who works for BBC Television ("Newsnight") and The Guardian of London and is a columnist with the London Observer. Palast talks about these events in his book, "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy" (revised American edition).

What makes Palast's report credible, however horrifying, is that he has copies of official documents, letters and computer lists (some of which he admits he hacked from the office of Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris) to back up his assertions, as well as the opinions of professional statisticians and computer experts whom he interviewed with regard to the case. As the Chicago Tribune put it, Palast's book is "painstakingly researched."

Why write about Palast's exposé on corrupt Florida/Bush politics only now? Three reasons, not necessarily in order of importance: First is that I didn't find out the gory details until concert pianist Nena del Rosario Villanueva lent me her copy of the book, a couple of weeks ago. Second is that the United States having celebrated yesterday the 227th anniversary of its declaration of independence, discussing the book helps to remind us that we can never be complacent—that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. The third reason I leave for the end of this column.

The reader may remember that Vice President Al Gore, the Democratic candidate, lost

the US presidency in 2000 when he lost in Florida by 537 votes. And recall all the stories about "chads" and confusion arising from the official ballots.

Palast maintains that those chads and the confusion are beside the point. What he shows is that by "block and purge" operations, Gov. Jeb Bush and his underlings in Florida were able to prevent at least 100,000 voters from voting. More than 50,000 were purged from the voters' rolls, and another 40,000 barred from registering, on the grounds of being convicted felons. Of those blocked or purged, more than half were black, and most were poor, which means, from voter demographics, that they would have probably voted Democrat.

The "block and purge" operations were followed by another "no count" trick: 179,855 ballots were not counted. And Palast, using official documents (from cooperative election officers) again detects a pattern of discrimination: counties with heavily black populations show a markedly higher percentage of uncounted ballots. Is it because blacks are ignorant, as Ted Koppel's "Nightline" concludes, asks Palast? No.

Another election official demonstrated that whether a ballot was counted or not had almost nothing to do with a voter's education but the type of machines deployed and how they were set. It seems that Florida machines have a button that must be activated if the machine is to reject flawed ballots, and this button was not activated in the preponderantly black counties.

It was in the pursuit of the block and purge

operations that overpriced contracts were awarded, laws were ignored and court orders disobeyed.

The contract to provide the "scrub list" (voters to be purged) was awarded to a computer company (with Republican connections) which had turned in the costliest bid, with the amount awarded even higher than the bid. The charge per record was 10 times the industry norm. After Palast's exposé, the new contractor admitted that the lists they provided were 95 percent wrong. Only 1 in 20 remained in a validated list.

Gov. Jeb Bush required convicted felons from other states who had served their time to seek executive clemency from him before being registered, which was against federal law. Florida courts ordered him to allow them to register, but he ignored the order. Worse, his Office of Executive Clemency not only lied that it had sent out a letter to that effect, but tried to cover up with another letter (after elections) saying the opposite. Palast has copies of both letters.

Obviously, the major US media did not pursue the issue.

Let me now state my third reason for writing about the Florida experience: Misery loves company. Reading about the shenanigans in Florida leads me to believe that there is hope for the Philippines. Look at it this way: If, after 224 years of independence and democracy, the United States still seems unable to handle corruption of this kind, and with such tremendous national impact to boot, then maybe we, with only 11 years (from Sept. 16, 1991 when the Senate rejected the US bases), or 57 years (when the US "granted" us "independence") or 105 years (since we declared independence from Spain) aren't doing too badly after all. So we shouldn't be so hard on ourselves about our failures.

Consuelo de bobo? Maybe. But at this point, I'll take whatever comfort I can get, and let pride be damned.

NPC seeks to strengthen its hand

REPORTS indicate that the 1 1/2 hour meeting between President Macapagal-Arroyo and Nationalist People's Coalition chair Eduardo Cojuangco at Villamor Air Base last Wednesday afternoon, after her arrival from Marawi City, focused mainly on preserving the status quo in the House of Representatives. The media had heard earlier about a coup being hatched against Speaker Jose de Venecia, led by prominent NPC leaders. The report from Malacañang said the Villamor meeting was about the need to consolidate the administration coalition in the House. Reports said GMA asked Cojuangco to keep the status quo in the chamber.

The NPC has some 60 members in the House, and constitute a major pillar of support for JDV. Observers opine, however, that the unrest in the House is being fanned by the failure of House members to get their CDF in this pre-election year due to tight budget constraints. "There's a drought in the House. It's El Niño," said one observer.

Another reason could be that the NPC simply wants to strengthen its hand and gain leverage, especially since the Presidential Commission on Good Government has been protesting the San Miguel Corp.'s Ginebra ads featuring Cojuangco. The PCGG has also been talking about shocking anomalies being uncovered in the UCPB during the Estrada era, including some P10 billion in heftiest loans to the Cojuangco group, with practically no collateral.

Yesterday, the INQUIRER carried the account of PCGG officer in charge Ruben Carranza on how Cojuangco succeeded in getting the sequestered Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF), which was set up with coco levy funds during the Marcos years, to lease five oil mills said to be privately owned by Cojuangco to the tune of P3 million a month. The lease is unwarranted since copra production is down and those mills are old; some have even been mothballed already. Yet Cojuangco succeeded in getting the CIIF sequestered since 1986 after the Edsa Revolution, to even advance rentals amounting to about P300 million from

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



the UCPB in 1999. Had Edsa II not happened, a purchase agreement to buy those leased mills for nearly P900 million in UCPB funds would have gone through. The deal was aborted in February 2001.

Interestingly, three of those old mills were among the 44 Cojuangco corporations owning the 20 percent of SMC shares he claims for his own, and which the government had sequestered in the belief that coco levy funds were used to acquire them. Carranza opined that Cojuangco tried to get the government-sequestered CIIF to buy his oil mills to offset his "loans" from the UCPB and the CIIF for those 20 percent SMC shares. The SMC shares are still under litigation in the Sandiganbayan, but already one can see that the industrialist is very smart and shrewd. No wonder he has become one of the country's wealthiest men, if not the wealthiest.

Is there a secret deal between the Macapagal administration and Cojuangco over the coco levy funds, as Sen. Joker Arroyo now speculates? Both deny it, and anyway the law provides that the PCGG would have to be appraised first and its approval secured for any deal involving sequestered properties. But there may be indications of political accommodation. An NPC stalwart, former Rizal Gov. Casimiro "Itto" Ynares, a close Estrada associate whose wife succeeded him as governor, was recently appointed chair of the Laguna Lake Development Authority, vice Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun. Traditionally the LLDA, one of the DENR's attached agencies, is chaired by the DENR secretary, but

the post went to Ynares.

Upsilonians ought to be ashamed of the behavior of their brods who dominated one of the two slates that contested the recent elections for the UP Alumni Association (UPAA) board for 2003-2006. It has been more than two weeks since the canvassing of the 17,000 ballots, but the 20 winners belonging to the rival "Group 21," led by former UP regent Nelia Gonzalez, have yet to be proclaimed and assume office despite their 2,000 vote lead. The UPAA's three-member "Comelec," whose chair and one member belong to Upsilon, issued a resolution shortly after the canvass started last June 16 that the proclamation will be suspended pending resolution of complaints. This violates the UPAA election rules.

The UPAA elections were marred by irregularities from the start. Group 21 accused its Upsilon-dominated rival of padding the voters' list with 2,000 unprocessed and unauthorized voters. Group 21 went to court just to get the canvassing underway last June 16, but until now the winners have not been proclaimed. The Upsilon line-up should concede defeat, otherwise their belligerence will just fan more talk that "millions" were involved. We UP alumni are aghast at what's been happening in the UPAA.

Retrouvaille, a Catholic ministry devoted to helping married couples of various faiths heal and renew their stressed, troubled or hurting relationships, has scheduled another healing weekend on July 11 to 13 at the Mother of Mercy Spiritual Center, SVD Road, Barangay San Jose (near San Pablo Seminary), Tagaytay City. The Retrouvaille spiritual director, Fr. Dave Clay of the Columban House in Singalong, Manila, and three couples who have successfully experienced the program will give talks during this three-day retreat in Tagaytay, and the six follow-up sessions on succeeding Saturday afternoons in Manila. Couples who want more information may call Father Clay at 523-3361 or cell 918-902-0511; Tom and Ruby del Castillo at 931-8413 and 932-375 or cell 0918-923-2973, or Ike and Flor Carlos at 718-0689.

Keeping young people safe

HOUSING Secretary Mike Defensor and I were trading metaphors—about driving and sex. Panelists on opposing sides of Thursday's "Debate," we were arrayed against each other on the issue: "Safe Sex—Should We Teach It to Our Youth?"

I was on the "pro" side (with GMA talents Regine Tolentino and JR), while Defensor was on the "anti" side (with Matt Ranillo and L.A. Mumar).

Because Defensor asserted that teaching safe sex (such as the use of contraceptives) was tantamount to encouraging young people to engage in sex, I was driven to dig up the driving metaphor. When we teach people how to drive, I said, we teach them safe driving tips: stop at street corners, observe traffic lights, keep to your lane, etc. Should we then ban the teaching of safety tips because it would encourage new drivers to overspeed, cut corners and hog lanes?

Always quick on the draw, Defensor seized on the metaphor and said, by the same token, teaching safe sex is like teaching novice drivers how to drag race while handing out tips on "safe" drag racing.

I wanted to retort, if not for the time constraints, that while there are no driving schools for drag racing, young and not-so-young drivers still indulge in it anyway, even if it puts them at risk of getting arrested or, worse, dying in an accident. But if a driver insists on drag racing, shouldn't we hope that someone out there is teaching this driver "safe" drag racing? Or is it our position that if someone insists on drag racing then he or she deserves to die from it?

That's the message I get from those objecting to sex education for young people or who see sinister ends in programs that seek to provide reproductive health information, education and services to young people. Their attitude seems to be that young people should abstain from sexual relations until they reach adulthood, but if they insist on having sex even at an early age, then they fully deserve the unforeseen and undesirable consequences, such as an unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted infection, including HIV/AIDS.

AS the saying goes, you made your bed, now lie on it.

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



But that's precisely the punitive, judgmental attitude many adults adopt that prevent young people from coming to them with questions about not just sex, but sexuality, identity (who am I?), relationships (will someone ever love me for life?) and self-esteem (am I worth loving?). Conservative parents insist that only parents should be teaching children about sensitive matters like sex, but then proceed to frighten their children into abstinence by promising hellfire and damnation, nightmarish diseases and social shunning in the event of a mistimed pregnancy. And if their children exhibit even just a bit of curiosity about such matters, the young people immediately fall under suspicion or, worse, have their concerns laughed off and dismissed as unimportant.

And still they expect their children to come to them with questions, and to listen to their litany of gloom?

Educating young people about sex and sexuality, and providing them the information they need to protect themselves from the undesirable consequences of sex is merely providing them with the tools they need to navigate safely through the mine-laden fields of adolescence and young adulthood.

If I may use another metaphor, parenting and a stable home life may provide young people with the maps and compass they need to find their way through life, but they will also need tools and weapons to counter the challenges they will encounter. And if we have the capacity to provide these tools and weapons to our young soldiers, do we have the right to withhold it from them and put their lives and futures in danger?

DURING my fellowship in San Francisco, we had a chance to meet young people working in the peer education and outreach program of the New Generation Health Center, a facility managed by the University of California San Francisco for young people in the Mission, Bayview and Hunters Point neighborhoods of the city.

While young people are able to avail themselves of information and services at New Generation, it also fields peer educators to the high schools, teen centers, malls and other hangouts of young people in the area. Here, they engage other teens in conversations about sex and relationships, encourage them to drop by New Generation, or refer them to peer support groups such as the Girls Club or Reality Check for young men.

Tito, the young and good-looking head of the peer educators program, was asked if such activities "increased your desire to have sex." Smiling, he said no, but added that his involvement in the program "raises my wanting to be safe while I have sex."

David, one of New Generation's newest peer counselors, was asked if he ever discussed abstinence with the young people he counsels. "Personally, I think abstinence is not all that great," David said with refreshing candor. "But I do try to encourage it among the people I talk to."

The other counselors stressed that abstinence is always one option they offer the teens grappling with questions of sexuality.

Jenny, another peer counselor, started out as a client of New Generation, having gotten pregnant in her teens. Her work, she says, gives her a sense of fulfillment. "I'm pretty excited about this chance to help children from other Latino families cope with this new environment," she said.

Perhaps, if we parents persist in living in denial and insist on withholding information from our youth, then they will get their information elsewhere, usually from their friends. We can only hope they get the right information from other young people like those at New Generation who know what they're talking about.

Sack cloth and ashes

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper



DEAR me! It seems that what I perceived to be no more than a curiosity and an amusing weekend read has metamorphosed into "a new historical hoax that threatens to plague our collective memory," according to reader Vicente C. de Jesus. It was so serious a gaffe that "it will render academic the insular debate as to where in the Philippines the first Mass on March 31, 1521 was held."

My apologies then to all who took it to mean that the article written by Percy Hill, entitled "A Hitherto Unpublished Document on the Landing of Magellan in Homonhon," was to be considered ex-cathedra. I should have stated that it was to be read with a grain of salt since no historian had bothered with it. Had it been for real, surely someone else would have resurrected it sooner than 69 years later. It's not as though no one reads those pre-war magazines.

Unfortunately, I ended the article in question with what De Jesus chooses to describe as a "triumphant" (this overused, tired cliché should teach me another lesson) "the rest is history," referring on my part not to the article but to the discovery of the Philippines by Spain and the ensuing sequence of events that some maintain has left us without an identity. De Jesus understood the phrase to refer to the foregoing document.

De Jesus states that if the document were genuine, "it would have been a historical coup" ending the debate on the Mazaua/Limasawa site of the first Mass. Actually, my ego notwithstanding, I had no intentions of ending that wonderful endless debate on where the first Mass was held (whatever would we do for conference topics without these tussles?) or staging a "historical coup." Had I had the temerity to aspire to such heights or belief in the authenticity of the document, I would have insisted on its publication on the front page.

In the meantime, De Jesus equates my "trumpet-

ed" discovery with James Alexander Robertson's announcing the manuscripts manufactured by Jose E. Marco before the joint meeting of the American Asiatic Association, the Asiatic Institute and the American Historical Association held at Berkeley, California in a paper entitled, "Social Structure of, and Ideas of Law Among Early Philippine Peoples; and a Recently Discovered Criminal Code of the Prehistoric Epoch."

This is a rather back-handed compliment since Dr. Robertson is the same Robertson who completed that monumental undertaking of writing 54 volumes of "The Philippine Islands 1493-1898." I am, of course, only like him in that I claimed to have "discovered" another long-lost, fake document. Well, time to bring out the sack cloth and ashes and make De Jesus happy.

De Jesus continues: "In scholarly historical discourse the onus of proving the authenticity or truth of an assertion rests with the one asserting it—both Hill and Harper. Let me quote David Hackett Fischer on this: 'The burden of proof, for any historical assertion, always rests upon its author. Not his critics, not his readers, not his graduate students, not the next generation. Let us call this the rule of responsibility.' Hill is dead, and I don't think Harper will hazard—now that she has been made aware of the provenance of her discovery—to defend the indefensible. And she has chosen to be silent on this."

Good grief! Harper really feels guilty now. No, she's certainly not about to defend anybody, not even the mayor of Manila or the new decorator of the Manila Hotel. And no, she wasn't going to remain silent either, she just hadn't gotten around to it.

It appears that "the Bishop of Eastern Samar, Msgr. Lope C. Robredillo, in a letter published in INQUIRER has called on his flock to start celebrating the event in 2003 at Suluan Isle. To his credit he premised his call on the hope 'Harper is correct.' (She is dead wrong.)" Do we detect a note of glee from De Jesus?

Yes, De Jesus is correct in stating that Harper was not aware that the article was sourced from Jose E. Marco since that would be enough to wipe out any credibility given that it was Marco who started that grand myth of Kalantiaw and Maragtas that went on for decades and evolved into a presidential award bearing the name of the former. Apparently the National Historical Institute through its chair, Dr. Sammy Tan, finally declared Kalantiaw and his code a hoax after Malacañang asked in 1998, not because I had written an article denouncing it, "The Mythical Kalantiaw and Moral Recovery," four years earlier (8/13/94) or a follow-up article, "The Need for Truth," (9/27/94). At the time the NHI and Dr. Serafin Quiazon chose to ignore it.

But it's good that De Jesus wrote Chief Justice Andres Narvasa on April 7, 1998 to warn him that he was about to be awarded the Order of Kalantiaw, the highest decoration given to a retiring jurist, named after a hoax. The Chief Justice wrote Malacañang, which in turn asked the NHI. Despite that (and I think this is the really ironic part), it seems that President Joseph Estrada gave Narvasa the award anyway. This must mean something, but I'm not sure what.

Lonely people

MATILDA tried to kill herself. A day later, she sent me a text that read: "Don't panic but I'm okay now. I tried to kill myself yesterday. I'm confined at Medical City."

Matilda is a relatively new friend. We've only known each other for nearly a year after being introduced by common friends. I met her for the first time at the UP Film Center. She wasn't particularly interesting in a romantic sort of way, but she was friendly and intelligent.

She's a little over five feet in height, with long curly hair, the kind you see on little schoolgirls on Hallmark cards. We went to the same university and helped put out the university newspaper. She graduated two years ahead of me, with a degree in comparative literature.

We met because she had asked a common friend to arrange the meeting. Little did I know, because maybe I'm naturally dense, that she liked me.

This I only discovered in one of the online diary entries that she had. There she had given me the code name "Matthias" (after one of the more obscure apostles of Jesus, she said). Not being a big fan of the Bible, I didn't bother to check the veracity of her information or ask why she chose such a name for me.

I returned the favor by christening her "Matilda" in my own online diary. She didn't object and didn't ask why I chose the name.

Somehow we seemed to understand that we deserved each other's nickname without actually knowing why. And with that simple act of submission, we welcomed each other into our lives.

We were not destined for romance. We were fated to be something far better: friends.

A flurry of e-mails started between us. We would talk about things mundane like how she liked a certain song or a band, and own failed attempts at love. I'd tell her how someone pissed me off at work. She'd tell me how bored she was with editing a book on eco-tourism and that she wanted to write fiction instead.

In between e-mails, I would visit her online diary and it was there that I found out one day that she was under medication for clinical depression. In her diary she also poured out her frustrations, her angst, and occasionally her politics (she's an environmentalist).

Our diaries helped sustain our friendship. Being busy with our jobs, we couldn't see each other regularly. The diaries kept us up to date with the significant events in our lives as well as the more disturbing.

In one of her diary entries, she wrote about how she had fallen in love with "Dave," her flatmate. Dave was from the same environmental organization as hers. He had moved into Matilda's apartment with another male friend, Mike, at her invitation. She had rented an apartment to avoid her mother who was beginning to drive her (more) crazy. Her attempt to be self-independent was an act of self-preservation.

At the time she invited Dave, she had no idea that she would fall for him. He was there for a practical purpose: to split the house rent with.

She fell for him, and I wish she never did.

Matilda had occasional bouts of depression. One day she would find herself lying on her bed feeling helpless and crying. While at work, she would suddenly notice that she had been staring into nothingness for a long time.

During one of her worst bouts, she found herself crying in the dead of the night. She wanted to take her medication but she was feeling too weak to pop the pill. She dropped the medicine bottle, spilling the pills and just laid there on her bedroom floor helpless and crying. Still she managed to make a faint cry for help and luckily Dave happened to be still awake.

Dave tucked her in her bed. Then it struck her that the time had come for them to carry their relationship forward. Dave, Matilda thought, had been reciprocating her demonstrations of affection anyway. They had had their moments like the usual long talks about nothing. Matilda thought that that night would mark the time when she and Dave would no longer be just friends.

They kissed and nearly did it, but Dave backed out. And they never talked about that night at all.

A few days later, Dave left the apartment. Matilda's depression deepened.

My suspicion is that the incident hit the core of Matilda's insecurity. When Dave refused to talk about the incident, that only showed that he didn't respect her enough to come clean. If it was a mistake, he should have said so. If he was not ready for a commitment, Matilda would have appreciated being told so. To be silent was about the worst thing he could do, especially to her.

Dave's refusal to have sex with her reinforced Matilda's notion that she wasn't desirable (to which I object). She hated her curly locks and her short height, and felt really miserable when some friends teased her that she looked like Aiza Seguerra with her glasses on. At 26 and without a serious boyfriend, she thought her biological clock (or time bomb as she called it) was ticking away and her family was growing impatient.

Having too many questions and not knowing their answers was something Matilda did not need. It compounded her problems with her mother, her career (she had resigned from her job, saying she didn't have the energy and the focus to do it justice) and her personal life.

Some of her friends said Matilda was just being melodramatic about these things. But I could see that to her these were very serious concerns. In fact, so serious that she thought it would be better to end her life than continue trying to resolve them.

The minute I got her text about her suicide attempt, I called her up. "What happened?" I demanded. "I just saw you yesterday." I had seen her with Dave and some of their org mates preparing to go to a Labor Day rally.

"It's Dave," she replied.

I did not ask any more questions. "I will see you as soon as you get out of the hospital. Stay safe," I just told her. I didn't want her to recall whatever happened to her and Dave that day. Maybe when she's better and hopefully has gotten over him, she would tell me.

A few months earlier, I was feeling very depressed over the fact that I couldn't seem to find the right person even if I felt ready for a relationship. "What was wrong with me?" I asked her. "Do I think too much? Am I too afraid to take risks?"

"Relax," she advised me. "You're just lonely. Just like the rest of us."

That was all I needed to get over my depression, the reminder that I was not alone in my loneliness.

Now I want to throw it back at her: Matilda, hang in there. Stay. I sure could use your company.

Matthias, 24, is a journalism graduate of the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

An immeasurable loss to cause of human rights

WE are saddened by the passing away of Bishop Antonio Fortich, a towering pillar of human rights, and honorary chairperson of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines. All defenders of human rights as well as survivors of human rights violations will surely feel the immeasurable loss of this humble servant of God.

Bishop Fortich was a Nobel Peace Prize nominee for his defense of martial law victims and promotion of "peace zones" in southern Negros. He served all without hesitation or discrimination, regardless of religious or political beliefs. For his selfless promotion and defense of human rights, an assassination attempt was made on his life. But threats on his life did not deter this man of God, this advocate of peace, from serving his beloved sacadas and all who asked for his counsel and presence.

Many times he had spoken for the defense of political prisoners. Before the fall of former President Estrada, he succeeded in negotiating

for the release of at least five of the political prisoners at the Bacolod Provincial Jail. One of his most memorable quotes, given during a Mass for political prisoners held at the Bacolod Provincial Jail on Dec. 10, 2001 for the annual celebration of International Human Rights Day, was: "If you will not release these people, detain me as well!"

Memories of Bishop Fortich will forever be etched in the hearts and minds of the victims and advocates of human rights. His name will be written in the annals of the struggle for genuine democracy and peace.

Kay bigat para sa sambayanang nakikibaka para sa karapatang pantao, kalayaan, katarungan, kapayapaan at kaganapan ng buhay ang iyong pagpanaw. Ang iyong alaala ay mananatiling buhay, sa puso ng mamamayang inaapi, inyong bantayog ay nakatayo!

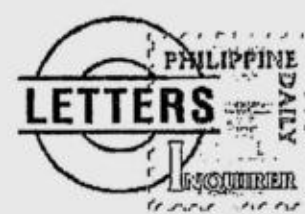
—FR. BEN MORALED, CsSR, Task Force Detainees of the Philippines, 45 St. Mary St., Cubao, Quezon City



Clipping Bayani Fernando's wings

THE RECENT move by Metro Manila mayors to arrogate unto themselves the power to enact their own traffic rules and by so doing grab from the Metro Manila Development Authority the mandate to manage traffic in the metropolis was not totally unexpected. It is but a part of a bigger plot to clip the wings of MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando before the 2004 elections.

Ever since Fernando was named to the MMDA, the mayors cringed in utter embarrassment every time he landed on the front pages of the national dailies or appeared on prime-time TV shows or radio programs espousing politically controversial issues. Waging a protracted battle against sidewalk vendors, demolishing roadway obstructions, re-orienting traffic routes and lately getting embroiled with environmentalists over the removal of trees lining up Katipunan Avenue in Quezon City, these issues were absolute no-nos to dyed-in-the-wool politicians. And it was not because they lacked vision or



guts, it's just that political expediency dictated that they veer away from such high-risk ventures. In this age of high technology, politicians of all types and persuasion still treat their electorate as feudal vassals.

It did not help also that Fernando never failed to attribute to the mayors the things he did which they should have done and that he was simply translating into concrete measure the spirit of the law. The mayors see the maverick MMDA chair as uncontrollable and his nonchalant visage added more to the impression.

There is no better time to have a Bayani Fernando in government than now. But the Metro mayors would have none of it. Tsk tsk.

—ALEJO S. SAGUITSIT, Barangay Bangkal, Makati City

Permit to explore, not to mine

MAYOR Melchor E. Nacario's commentary on the proposed Samar Island Natural Park (SINP) last June 29, "To exploit or protect," unfortunately missed the more important facts about mining and the way I managed the Department of Environment and Natural Resources while I was the secretary.

Contrary to what he wrote, the Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) I issued for the Samar Bauxite Mining Reservation cover only the exploration activities to be conducted by the two mining companies and do not grant "the right to mine." Ultimately, the explorations will confine the mining sites to much more limited, defined areas.

Nacario insinuated that there was some irregularity involved when he said, "It was already disturbing that Alvarez signed the MPSAs shortly before his resignation from the DENR took effect on Dec. 15, 2002" as if I had mindlessly issued those agreements without consideration for the environment. These MPSAs along with several others I approved during my watch was a component of the government's thrust for sustainable minerals development, with the vision of infusing more investments in that sector, accelerate more jobs in the countryside and fast track development.

The Bauxite Mining Reservation is estimated to hold more than 200 million metric tons of bauxite, a strategic raw mineral for aluminum production. This is the only bauxite mine in the country and if fully developed, this would generate at least \$21 billion in revenues.

To explore and utilize natural resources is not necessarily to destroy the environment. While we conserve, we can create wealth from the earth's bounty, guided by the principles of sustainable development. Technological innovations in mining as showcased in modern and developed countries provide us with some assurance that Marcopper-like disasters can be averted especially if best practices are applied and if government and NGOs constantly and militantly enforce environmental rules.

In situations where mining development threatens the environment, I have not compromised and moved decisively as in the case of Aglubang Mining in Mindoro whose ECC did not disclose the potential ruin of more than 30,000 has. of rice lands.

Whenever there is a hard choice between conservation and development, we cannot allow development that compromises the integrity of the environment. This was the case of the Northern Sierra Madre National Park (NSMNP) which I authored with fellow legislators from the north. This is a 350,000-has. forest park where a rich nickel deposit in the midst of the park must remain dormant, unexploited.

In the case of Samar, after the mines would have been used, those sites can become parks, tree plantations or biodiversity enriched areas.

—HEHERSON T. ALVAREZ, Office of the Presidential Adviser on Overseas Filipino Communities, Rm. 320 Tahanan ng Masa Bldg., J.R. Laurel St., Malacañang Compound, San Miguel, Manila

Pre-school education for all children

I WOULD like to thank the INQUIRER and Andrea Trinidad-Echavez for giving prominence anew to the Kinder Plus Project, which is one of the initiatives under the Early Childhood Care and Development Act (ECCD).

Through your paper, I am happy to inform your readers that I am working on the wide-scale implementation of child-friendly initiatives similar to Kinder Plus, in the form of the Pamilyang Malabon-Navotas para sa Kabataan (Pamana) program to be piloted in the Malabon-Navotas district.

The ECCD, one of over 200 education-related laws that I have authored or co-sponsored, is meant to provide socio-economic aid to six million indigent Filipino children six years of age and below, and set up daycare and Montessori-type learning facilities for them.

Programs like the ECCD should be given all the support they need because through such initiatives, kids from poor families can have the same educational opportuni-

ties now enjoyed only by their rich counterparts who can afford to pay for two to three years of expensive preschool learning before entering Grade 1.

Thus, instead of the proposal of the Department of Education to add another year to elementary schooling, or the plan by the Commission on Higher Education to insert a pre-baccalaureate course for high school students, I am proposing that preschool education be made available to all Filipino kids. Adding another year to elementary or high school would not benefit all public school enrollees because more than half of those who enter Grade 1 will have dropped out already before reaching 4th year high school. Preschool learning, on the other hand, is at the entry level, and would thus benefit more children if institutionalized.

—THERESA AQUINO ORETA, senator, Rm. 511, GSIS Bldg., Financial Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City

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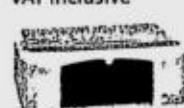


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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

US offers \$25-M bounty for Saddam

BAGHDAD—The United States placed a \$25 million bounty on the head of Saddam Hussein on Thursday as rocket-propelled grenades fired by suspected Saddam loyalists wounded more American soldiers.

Paul Bremer, US administrator for Iraq, also offered \$15 million for information leading to the capture of his two sons Oday and Qusai, calling all three "among the most evil men the world has known."

Bremer's appeal for information leading to Saddam's capture or confirmation of his death, televised to the Iraqi people, suggested Washington does not know whether he is alive.

Three months after a US-led war toppled the man who ruled Iraq with an iron fist for a quarter of a century, there was still no sign of him or his sons.

The United States once called Saddam irrelevant after the war. But the language has changed since the rise in attacks on US troops blamed on his supporters.

"They (Saddam and sons) may or may not be alive. But I recognize that, until we know for sure, their names will con-

tinue to cast a shadow of fear over this country," Bremer said, inviting people to come forward with information.

Bremer previously cited the possibility Saddam was still alive. US military officials blame his supporters for an average of 13 attacks per day on the occupying forces in Iraq.

Hostile fire has killed 25 American soldiers since major combat was declared over on May 1, military sources said on Thursday.

Resistance fighters armed with grenade launchers wounded 10 US soldiers in ambushes on Thursday. Two Iraqis were killed and 12 wounded as a result of the increasingly bold attacks on US forces.

The United States also has a \$25 million bounty on the head of Osama bin Laden, the exiled Saudi militant accused of masterminding the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

When reminded during a news conference that Bin Laden was still at large, a spokesperson for the US-led coalition governing Iraq

cited the example of former Panamanian leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who was captured during the 1989 US invasion of that Central American country.

"That's absolutely true (Bin Laden still at large). Equally within 48 hours of a reward being announced for General Noriega he was captured. So I think it goes both ways," the spokesperson said.

Many Iraqis claim they spotted Saddam as Baghdad fell on

April 9. They call him the master of disguise who hides in simple huts or dines in restaurants when the pressure is on.

Some believe Saddam may be hiding in his home town of Tikrit, his former power base.

Amid the violence, there was some hope. Iraq briefly reopened its National Museum, displaying the Treasure of Nimrud and other antiquities that survived looting when Baghdad fell on April 9.

Reuters

I'm around, 'Saddam' tells Iraqis

BAGHDAD—An audio tape purporting to be from Saddam Hussein and aired by Arabic television channel al Jazeera on Friday said he was alive and living in Iraq, and urged Iraqis to support resistance to US forces.

No confirmation was immediately available that the voice on the tape was indeed that of the former Iraqi president, who has not been seen in public since American forces ousted him and his government in early April.

"I am in Iraq and with a comrade," said the voice on the tape, which sounded like Saddam's.

"I tell you that I miss you, miss you, oh beloved people, even though I am among you and in your ranks," said the voice, adding that the recording had been made on June 14.

The United States, backed by Britain, invaded Iraq to rid it of alleged weapons of

mass destruction, and had hoped to be welcomed as a liberator by the Iraqis.

But in recent weeks, dozens of its soldiers have been killed in an increasingly concerted campaign of armed resistance, while it has failed to find either Saddam or any proof of the weapons.

In the tape, the voice asked Iraqis to help to protect the fighters resisting the American forces, and not to help the "infidel occupiers."

Asked about the tape, a British Ministry of Defense official in London told Reuters: "As far as I am aware, we cannot vouch for its authenticity."

In Washington, the White House and the Pentagon had no immediate comment.

The tape, which could be heard by Iraqis with satellite dishes, was broadcast on US Independence Day.

Reuters

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Italian PM eats crow for slur against German

ROME—Italy's Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi bowed to intense pressure Thursday and apologized to German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder for a Nazi slur against a German MEP heading off a diplomatic row with Berlin just days into Italy's EU presidency.



BERLUSCONI

A statement from Berlusconi's office said the prime minister made the apology in a telephone call to Schroeder, shortly before he was due to join the 20-member EU Commission for a formal dinner to inaugurate the Italian presidency.

But Berlusconi, who caused outrage with his comment that a German MEP who heckled him should be cast as a Nazi camp guard in a film, maintained his innocence, claiming his irony had been misinterpreted.

The chancellor, who had demanded the apology after the remark caused Europe-wide uproar, confirmed that Berlusconi had "expressed his regrets about his choice of expression and the comparison" and that he considered the incident now closed.

"In a telephone conversation with the German chancellor, the prime minister referred to the grave offenses which occurred yesterday in the European Parliament," Berlusconi's office said, maintaining his line that he had also been maligned.

"The prime minister also reiterated what was already expressed yesterday, his regret that his remark, which was meant only to be ironic, had been misinterpreted."

The real political fallout from the outburst during Wednesday's speech to the European Parliament remains to be seen, particularly as it appeared to confirm fears over the Italian leader's fitness to lead Europe during a delicate period of reform and enlargement.

European newspapers said the controversial media magnate had kicked off his six-month EU presidency in the worst possible way.

Berlusconi's office was keen to give the impression that normal business would resume.

"Both sides agreed that in the interests of Europe the Intergovernmental Conference on the European Constitution must have a successful conclusion during the Italian presidency," the statement concluded.

Schroeder had earlier declared the remarks "totally unacceptable," particularly in a Germany still marked by an excruciating sensitivity about its past. **AFP**



TINGA Ole Pere, here posing with her child, claims to have been raped by British soldiers.

US jobless rate 'ugly and uglier'

WASHINGTON—The US jobless rate surged to a nine-year high in June as employers cut 30,000 workers from their payrolls, the government said on Thursday in an unexpectedly gloomy report on the economy.

But a separate measure of the vast services sector showed it grew much more quickly than expected last month, revving up to its fastest pace since September 2000 and offering hope to some that businesses would soon start hiring.

The jobless rate hit 6.4 percent—a much worse reading than the 6.2 percent projected by private economists. It was up three-tenths of a percentage point from May's 6.1 percent, to a level not reached since April 1994, the Labor Department said.

The employment report is "ugly on the surface and uglier when you look inside," said economist Stuart Hoffman of PNC Financial Services Group.

In the past five months, payrolls have tumbled by 400,000.

Some economists saw a mild positive in the rise in the labor force, saying increasing job seekers may presage a renewal of optimism in the economy.

In a report that offered a glimmer of hope, the Institute for Supply Management said its index of non-manufacturing activity surged to 60.6 in June from 54.5 in May. A reading above 50 signals growth in the service sector.

Stock prices fell, cushioned slightly by the service-sector report. The Dow Jones industrial average ended a shortened pre-holiday session down 0.79 percent at 9,070. Bond prices rose on the jobs data but slid later, with the benchmark 10-year note finishing off nearly a point.

"The services sector may begin to generate some jobs in the second half of the year. I think we could be seeing better employment numbers down the road," said Gary Thayer, chief economist at AG Edwards & Sons in St. Louis. **Reuters**

Russia's richest man charged with theft

MOSCOW—Russia's wealthiest man, the CEO of oil major YUKOS, was called on Friday to a prosecutor's office while his major ally faced charges of theft of state property in connection with a 1990s privatization deal.

YUKOS boss Mikhail Khodorkovsky, reputed to be worth \$11 billion, appeared as scheduled at a prosecutor's office in the case concerning the 1994 privatization of a fertilizer company.

His accused ally, Platon Lebedev, head of a subsidiary controlling a large chunk of YUKOS shares, has been questioned since being detained on Wednesday.

Lebedev's spokesperson said he had been charged with theft of state property and contempt of court, though officials close to him said they had not been provided with full explanation.

"The charges were read out yesterday, but there was a viola-

tion of law in that lawyers were not allowed in," Yuri Kodler said by telephone.

Business figures have said the legal action against Lebedev had been initiated by Kremlin hawks keen on clipping the wings of "oligarchs", the super-wealthy elite, before December parliamentary elections.

That contest is to be followed by a March 2004 presidential election in which Kremlin leader Vladimir Putin is widely expected to seek a second term.

Khodorkovsky has publicly supported the liberal opposition against Putin's allies in parliament.

YUKOS fell 1.17 percent at the opening to \$13.50 on the Russian Trading System. The stock closed at \$13.66 on Thursday after falling 6.12 percent during the day.

On Thursday, Khodorkovsky said YUKOS's proposed huge \$12-\$15 billion cash and equity deal

merger with smaller rival Sibneft was going ahead as planned, regardless of the legal action.

The alleged offence took place in 1994, the General Prosecutor's office said—at the peak of Russia's post-Soviet mass sales of state assets which enabled a small group of entrepreneurs to acquire state-owned companies cheaply.

Lebedev, himself worth \$1.3 billion according to Forbes magazine, was arrested a day after another wealthy "oligarch," Roman Abramovich caused a stir in Britain after it was announced he had acquired prestigious English soccer club Chelsea.

Most analysts saw Khodorkovsky as the prime target of the legal action, but believed the Kremlin did not necessarily want to block the complex deal with Sibneft which will make YUKOS Russia's largest and the world's fourth largest oil producer. **Reuters**

650 Kenyan women claim rape by British soldiers

DOL DOL, Kenya—"They pulled me into a nearby thicket and began fighting about who would rape me first," said Nayook Ole Mosiany. "I have never recovered from that day."

It all happened 19 years ago, when as a 17-year-old she was tending cattle. Three British soldiers on a training exercise nearby, attacked her near Dol Dol, 250 km north of Nairobi.

It isn't the first time British troops training in this semiarid area of rolling hills have been accused of abuses by the region's Maasai and Samburu tribespeople.

Last July, more than 200 people from Maasai and Samburu tribes were awarded millions of dollars because of injuries and deaths caused by unexploded British munitions left on ranges where nomadic herdsman

grazed their cattle.

On Thursday, Mosiany and more than a dozen others filled out questionnaires at the office of a Kenyan human rights organization, Impact, which is helping London-based lawyers Leigh, Day and Co. collect evidence about the claims.

The British government this week granted legal aid to the women who are alleging they've been raped.

The allegations began to surface when lawyer Martyn Day was investigating claims that unexploded British ordnance had killed and maimed scores of herdsman near Dol Dol.

Some 650 Maasai and Samburu women have come forward with allegations of rape between 1972 and last year. Many more are expected to follow. **AP**

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Finally, an honorable home for our honorable men. Riego de Dios Village. It's a fast-rising community in Tanza, Cavite masterplanned for AFP personnel, enlisted men and junior officers. Conceived by the AFP, LPHI (a subsidiary of Ayala Land, Inc.) and Pag-IBIG, Riego de Dios Village is the answer to what our admirable men truly deserve: a home that's complete, premium and affordable.

Being the first AFP Off-Base Housing Project, Riego de Dios Village takes pride in its superior commercial, recreational, religious and institutional facilities and amenities. Riego de Dios Village also assures every owner of quality, high-standard homes because its developer (LPHI) adheres to strict housing standards. Add to that the affordability of each unit through Pag-IBIG's light payment terms.

Riego de Dios Village. It's our way of honoring our honorable soldiers. Our way of saluting our sirs.



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My warmest greetings and congratulations to the key players behind Riego de Dios Village, the successful joint project of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the developer Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. We welcome with much delight the launching of this 20-hectare project in Tanza, Cavite, as an enthusiastic response to the crisis of homelessness in the country. More importantly, this project seeks to uplift the morale of the AFP by realizing the soldiers' long-sought dream to have quality housing at an affordable cost for their families.

Gloria Macapagal Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President
Republic of the Philippines

In particular, I commend Secretary of National Defense and former AFP Chief of Staff Angelo T. Reyes as well as LPHI as lead players for this major accomplishment. Not only have your organizations wholeheartedly accorded the project the urgency and importance it deserves, but with the launch of this project, you have truly made your mark as allies of the government in realizing the dreams of the brave defenders of our country. More power and Mabuhay!



ANGELO T. REYES
Secretary of National Defense

It is with immense pleasure that I congratulate the individuals responsible for the success of a 20-hectare project, the Riego de Dios Village, which is a monumental undertaking of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. This is an end-result of its builders' vision and concerted efforts which were strengthened by our government's determination to push forward the project in its desire to provide quality low-cost housing for the officers and enlisted personnel of the AFP. For many of us, owning a home is a lifelong dream; hence finding affordable housing units for our families is truly a blessing that comes at the right time.

Congratulations to the recipients of our government's housing assistance. I encourage you to take care of your homes by making sure that they remain as secure and as peaceful as we want our communities to be.

Angelo T. Reyes



GEN. NARCISO L. ABAYA
AFP Chief of Staff

On behalf of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, I present with pride our first off-base housing venture with Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. (LPHI) - the Riego de Dios Village in Tanza, Cavite. As our maiden joint project with LPHI, this undertaking manifests our commitment to the welfare of the men and women of our Armed Forces. We will build on this partnership to realize affordable quality developments in 14 other camps located all over the country. The Armed Forces truly appreciates the efforts of establishmentists such as LPHI to rally behind the housing needs of AFP personnel. With the launching of the Riego de Dios Village, we continue to honor our soldiers as living heroes of the country through sincere efforts to improve their well-being and that of their families. May this occasion inspire both the AFP and LPHI to continue delivering good and efficient services in their respective fields. Congratulations to us and Mabuhay!

Narciso L. Abaya



MICHAEL T. DEFENSOR
Secretary, Housing and Urban
Development Coordinating Council

I would like to congratulate the Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc., a subsidiary of the Ayala Land Inc. and the Armed Forces of the Philippines for the launching of the Riego de Dios Village. The government housing sector has long recognized the crucial role of private developers such as the Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. in realizing the commitment of providing decent, quality and affordable housing to every Filipino family.

This project will not only showcase quality housing units but more importantly, pay tribute to the brave men and women rendering committed and dedicated military service.

Congratulations for this remarkable project and more power.

Michael T. Defensor



ATTY. ROMERO F. S. QUIMBO
President / CEO
Pag-IBIG Fund

It is always heartening to witness government and the private sector join hands in pursuit of the project whose benefits shall ripple out through next generations. The Riego de Dios Village, a joint project of Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, is a fine example of such.

A home is a great source of man's pride and dignity; and to build homes for the brave men and women of the country's Armed Forces is truly an honor and privilege for all of us. This is, perhaps, one of the reasons why President Arroyo's Administration is keen on pushing the national housing program and the fulfillment of our mandate - to afford all Filipinos quality housing programs - is but a great source of pride for the men and women of Pag-IBIG Fund. The Pag-IBIG Fund shall continue to undertake all efforts to forge partnerships with various sectors for the development of quality housing projects. We are pleased to have been given the opportunity to be a part of the Riego de Dios Village and to make a difference in the lives of our soldier-members. My congratulations and best wishes for your continued success.

Romero F. S. Quimbo



FERNANDO ZOBEL DE AYALA
Chairman
Ayala Land, Inc.

Ayala Land, Inc. and its wholly-owned subsidiary Laguna Properties Holdings, Inc. (LPHI) are proud and delighted to be in partnership with the Armed Forces of the Philippines in the development of Riego de Dios Village in Tanza, Cavite. Since its inception in 1993, LPHI has built more than 7,500 homes all over the country, combining quality and affordability in its product offerings. In all its projects, LPHI strives to go beyond building houses, roads and other related infrastructure. What we seek to create are environments that foster an attractive quality of life where communities can thrive and prosper. We believe that it is this philosophy that has been the foundation of our success over the years and we intend to fulfill this same commitment for the men and women of the AFP and their families. This project is, in many ways, a milestone. Not only does it mark the first partnership between LPHI and the AFP, but it is also the start of a very significant housing initiative for the military that will eventually lead to the creation of 14 such communities. As such, we intend to do our very best to establish Riego de Dios Village as a benchmark for these future developments. We hope that this will also be the start of a long and fruitful relationship between the AFP and ourselves.

Fernando Zobel de Ayala



FRANCISCO H. LICUANAN III
Chairman
LPHI

It is a distinct honor for LPHI to have been chosen to develop Riego de Dios Village. It marks the first time we are building homes specifically for those in the Armed Forces. And because we believe that our noble soldiers deserve nothing but the best for the sacrifices they are making for our country, we are taking our task very seriously indeed.

We are especially enthusiastic about Riego de Dios Village as it is the first of 14 off-base communities that the AFP will eventually establish as part of a nationwide housing effort led by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. LPHI has been given the privilege of working on the first project in cooperation with Secretary Angelo Reyes and the members of his dedicated staff, and we intend to do our best to make sure our work lives up to their vision. We take great pride and pleasure in working with the Office of the President and the Armed Forces of the Philippines on an undertaking to provide shelter to those among us whose lives are dedicated to the protection and defense of our nation.

Francisco H. Licuanan III

Our four letters make a home
ALPHI
An AYALA LAND, INC. Subsidiary



Riego de Dios
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TWENTY YEARS OF TONGONAN AND PALINPINON

Enduring Pillars in Geothermal Energy Development

The most sensational success story in energy development over the past three decades is in the geothermal sector. From nil in 1976, the Philippines is now the world's second largest geothermal producer with an aggregate installed capacity of 1,910 megawatts.

At the forefront of geothermal development is the PNOG Energy Development Corporation (PNOG EDC) with 1,149.4 megawatt installed capacity spread over geothermal steamfields in Leyte, Negros Oriental, Bicol and North Cotabato. PNOG EDC helped catapult the Philippines to its present ranking in 1983 when it commissioned the 112.5-MW Tongonan I geothermal field in Leyte and the 112.5-MW Palinpinon-1 geothermal field in Negros Oriental.

Twenty years later, Tongonan and Palinpinon have generated 19,817 GWH of steam, displaced 33 million barrels of fuel oil equivalent (MMBFOE), and saved the country \$881 million.

TONGONAN

the single largest liquid-dominated geothermal field in the world

In 1983, six years after PNOG EDC commissioned the three-megawatt pilot plant in Tongonan, it put on line the 112.5 megawatt Tongonan-1 geothermal power plant, the first power plant that operated in Leyte, to serve the Samar-Leyte power grid.

After Tongonan-1 was placed on line in 1983, PNOG EDC geologists continued work on the greater Tongonan area. In 1994, groundbreaking rites were held for the 232.5-MW Malitbog plant, the world's largest single geothermal power station. In 1996, commercial operation for the 132-MW Malitbog plant began. Then the following year, the 180-MW Mahanagdong A and B plants were switched on.

With the discovery of more geothermal prospects in Leyte, the project was renamed Leyte Geothermal Production Field to include Mahiao, Malitbog and Mahanagdong. The Leyte geothermal project fulfilled the long-term objective of the Philippine Energy Program to interconnect the country's power grids into a national electric highway extending from Aparri in Northern Luzon to Sulu in Southwestern Mindanao.

After Tongonan-1, PNOG EDC concentrated on the Upper Mahiao and Malitbog-South Sambaloran sectors. The 132 megawatts from Upper Mahiao and 77.5 megawatts from Malitbog-South Sambaloran Stage 1 were transported to Cebu via Napocor's submarine transmission line in 1996.

For the Leyte-Luzon component, PNOG EDC tapped another 155 megawatts from the Malitbog-South Sambaloran sector and 180 megawatts from Mahanagdong A and B power plants. The power output from these plants is transmitted to the Luzon island via Napocor's subsea cables across San Bernardino strait. As a result of the subsea cables that have been installed, Leyte is now connected to Luzon in the north as well as to Central and Western Visayas to the west.

All told, the entire Leyte geothermal production field yields an impressive 708 megawatts including the 51 megawatts from the topping and bottoming cycle plants in Mahanagdong and Malitbog, respectively. It accounts for about 61 percent of PNOG EDC's combined geothermal output and 37 percent of total power generated from geothermal sources in the country. No other liquid-dominated geothermal resource in the world has been tapped for so much geothermal capacity to date. The project has distinguished the Philippines as one of the few Asian countries with significant exploitable potential and the world's second largest geothermal power producer, next to the United States.



112.5 MW Tongonan 1 Power Plant

A STERLING RECORD IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Environmental stewardship has long been an indispensable characteristic of PNOG EDC. Its unstinting efforts in environmental and watershed management have made geothermal more socially acceptable.

PNOG EDC set the pace in corporate environmentalism by instituting several environmental practices and adopting new green technologies. Some of its major accomplishments in environmental management are the ff:

- Formed its own full-time environmental management team in 1978. The team has grown to about 190 earth scientists and technicians experienced in all fields of environmental and watershed management.

- Instituted the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) system in the Tongonan Project in 1979 and then proceeded to do the same for the Palinpinon Project in 1980. These efforts preceded the rules for environmental assessment set by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in 1982.

- Installed freshwater, marine, and terrestrial ecological monitoring in its project sites as early as in 1980.

- Established the first multi-sectoral monitoring teams for its projects in 1993 composed

of the DENR, PNOG EDC, NGOs and the community.

- Pioneered among the industries the zero discharge system (ZDS), full reinjection, and accounting of "greenhouse gases" sequestration in forest vegetation around its work sites.

- Initiated studies in 1999 on Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) absorption by vegetation in Tongonan environs.

BUILDING MODEL COMMUNITIES THROUGH SOCIAL FORESTRY

Since the late 1980s, it has been quietly spearheading a successful form of green revolution in its geothermal project sites in the provinces of Leyte, Negros Oriental, Bicol, and North Cotabato. Through its social forestry project, 266,326 hectares of forests are protected and enhanced, and nearly 4,000 upland families have been integrated into the mainstream of development. For Tongonan and Palinpinon, PNOG EDC manages 107,625 hectares and 133,000 hectares, respectively. PNOG EDC's social forestry project has successfully promoted people empowerment, gender equity and community development through company programs and projects that directly assist communities become self-reliant and self-sufficient. It provides assistance in capability-building & institutional linkages. Through its systems &

mechanisms, the communities not only acquired the technical skills necessary to implement and manage livelihood projects, but also learned the value of cooperation, volunteerism, industry, team-building, and networking. They have been prepared to become small entrepreneurs and manage projects on their own with minimal assistance from the company.

The PNOG EDC social forestry project addresses not only the problem of forest denudation but also the upliftment of the lives of forest communities. It has identified a number of site-specific types of solutions for fragile forest conditions. Its social and institutional elements and principles are applicable even for non-upland communities. Further, it provides lessons that should prove useful to present and future practitioners of the concept such as development assistance providers, government policy makers, non-government organizations, and corporate planners.

Because of the company's success in managing its project environs, it harvested a total of 20 awards from prestigious institutions and is an acknowledged prime mover of various undertakings related to forest protection and social development.

Today, 22 forest communities in Tongonan and 17 in Palinpinon comprising 3840 and 4320 beneficiaries, respectively, have been transformed into model

PALINPINON

a model for compact development

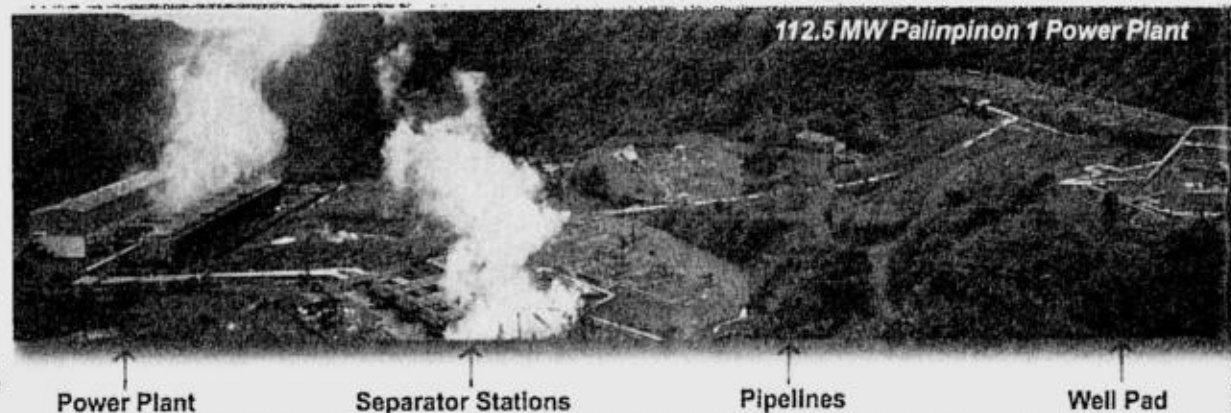
The entire Palinpinon-1 field occupies only about 60 hectares, making it probably the most compact geothermal field in the world today. It is hemmed in on three sides by steep hills, unlike most geothermal fields which are located on rolling terrain. This prompted PNOG EDC to operate within the compact 60-hectare area leveled from the hillsides. From a high vantage point, one can take a sweeping view of the entire field.

Located at the interior municipality of Valencia, about 21 kilometers northwest of Dumaguete City, the geothermal reservation occupies about half of the peninsular arm of Negros Oriental province. It first served Dumaguete City and neighboring towns before serving Bacolod City and several towns of Negros Occidental through high-voltage transmission lines.

In 1993, PNOG EDC tapped an additional 80 MW of geothermal resources in nearby Okoy, Nasuj and Sogongon. These three sectors comprise what is now known as Palinpinon-2. Today, the project is known as the Southern Negros Geothermal Production Field (SNGPF). All told, SNGPF's total installed geothermal capacity has reached 192.5 MW.

SNGPF is the very first to export its power supply across the sea. In October 1990, the National Power Corporation (NPC) installed submarine cables across Guimaras strait to link Panay Island. Thus, Palinpinon geothermal power was exported for the first time to power users in the provinces of Aklan, Iloilo, Capiz and Antique. Power produced in Palinpinon-2, meanwhile is exported to Cebu City.

During peak hours, SNGPF directs 75 percent of its produced electricity to Negros Island while the remaining 25 percent is supplied to Panay. During off-peak hours, SNGPF's electricity is directed as follows: 64 percent to Negros; 23 percent to Panay; and 13 percent to Cebu.



112.5 MW Palinpinon 1 Power Plant

Power Plant Separator Stations Pipelines Well Pad

associations by PNOG EDC. Four of them, Leyte's Tongonan Farmers Association (TOFA) and Ga-as Farmers Association (GAFA), and Negros Oriental's Boloc-Boloc Farmers Association (BOFAS) and Baslay Farmers Association (BFA) have distinguished themselves as "environmental heroes" by winning the prestigious ABS CBN Bayaning Pilipino Award.

COMREL AND OTHER BENEFITS

For the past 20 years, PNOG EDC has played a key role in bringing progress to Leyte and Negros Oriental by helping improve lives, tapping and exploiting human potential, and in paving the road to social development.

Comrel programs in the two project sites are designed to provide educational support in terms of school rooms; facilities and books; health and sanitation in terms of medicines, clinics and medical/dental services; sports; local infrastructure assistance such as the construction of roads, bridges, markets and health clinics; and livelihood improvement in terms of skills and job training. Figures from 1994 to 2001 show that PNOG EDC has spent nearly P100 million for its comrel programs benefiting more than 85,000 in

Tongonan and Palinpinon.

Aside from company-funded programs, PNOG EDC also remits to the government 40% of its profit net of tax as required in the Local Government Code. About 40% of this amount is allocated by the local government units to the reduction of electricity rates and for development projects for host communities. As of December 2002, the company has remitted P375,817,000 and P863,140,000 to the local governments of Tongonan and Palinpinon, respectively.

On top of the royalty payments, PNOG EDC also contributes one centavo per kilowatt-hour generated to a development fund in accordance with the Department of Energy (DOE) Law. From the Tongonan and

Palinpinon projects alone, P72,624,290.86 has been remitted to the DOE from 1997 to 2002. This fund is used for missionary electrification, livelihood development, health and sanitation, watershed management and other environmental enhancement.

LIGHTING UP HOMES AND LIVES THROUGH O-ILAW

PNOG EDC was the first to heed the call of DOE to participate in the rural electrification project. As of December 2002, PNOG EDC has assisted the DOE and the local cooperatives in lighting up 164 barangays in Leyte and 11 barangays in Southern Leyte. PNOG EDC also facilitated the energization of 238 barangays hosting its geothermal projects in Negros Oriental and Occidental, Cotabato, Albay and Sorsogon.



PRES. GLORIA ARROYO

SEC. VINCENT S. PEREZ JR. Department of Energy

SERGIO A. F. APOSTOL Chairman & President/CEO PNOG EDC

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Ex-cop hunted for slay of Compostela mayor

DAVAO CITY—Police in Southern Mindanao have started a manhunt for a former police officer and four other persons in connection with the June 28 assassination of Mayor Joel Brillantes of Monkayo, Compostela Valley.

But officials of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) would not confirm the names of the suspects.

"We're having difficulty finding them because they are in hiding," Supt. Danilo Millado Galapon, CIDG regional director, said.

Earlier, a police official said they were hunting down Reynaldo Cajes, alias Peewee, a former member of the defunct Regional Special Action Force (RSAF) based in Monkayo, Compostela Valley; Cirilo Engroba alias Eloy, a former member of the New People's Army; Rey Escudado, a resident of Tulalian in Sto. Tomas, Davao del Norte; and two other suspects.

Cajes served as bodyguard to Nelson "Tata" Sala, president of the Monkayo Integrated Small-Scale Miners Association. He was jailed for murder but was freed after he was granted parole.

Cajes, Engroba and Escudado were reportedly the persons last seen with the slain gunman Aniceto Dejito, aboard a dirty white L-300 van on the day the mayor was killed.

Reynaldo Española, vice president of JB Management Mining Corp., owned by the family of the slain mayor, said the Brillanteses would take steps in filing complaints against those responsible for the assassination.

"For now, they will be nameless bastards. We are relying on the authorities (to unmask them)," he said.

In Manila, CIDG chief Eduardo Matillano claimed they have identified the brains behind the mayor's murder.

He said police would file "in the coming days" murder charges against the owner of a prominent mining company in Mt. Diwalwal.

At least four other persons will be included in the charge sheet, according to Matillano.

"We're about to complete the building of cases against these people," he told the INQUIRER.

Matillano said the mining company owner had clashes with Brillantes and the slain mayor's company over mining operations in Mt. Diwalwal.

Investigators identified the alleged mastermind, after the wife of gunman Aniceto Dejito confessed that a former town policeman had hired her husband to stage the hit, the official said.

When asked if the names published in

newspapers were familiar to him, Española said Tata Sala is a miner and Peewee served as his bodyguard.

The slain mayor was laid to rest at the Davao Memorial Park on Thursday.

At least 5,000 mourners, mostly supporters and friends of Brillantes, joined the funeral march.

They included Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and Davao del Norte Gov. Rodolfo del Rosario.

Brillantes was one of the pioneer miners in the Mt. Diwata gold rush back in the early '80s.

But in recent years, he advocated the closure of mining operations in the area, also known as Diwalwal, after environmentalists sounded the alarm about the degradation of the Naboc River, the main source of irrigation water in Compostela Valley and Davao del Norte.

Last year, Brillantes ordered the closure of mining operations in Diwalwal, a move that earned him the ire of other miners.

The late magistrate Eugenio Valles backed Brillantes' order, making it legal. Valles was later assassinated.

Brillantes also battled for a government takeover of the tunnels in the area, so that mining would be regulated. **Anthony S. Allada, with reports by Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Christian V. Esguerra**

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Woman cop, 4 others caught in pot session

BINAN, Laguna—The intensified police operation against illegal drugs in Laguna netted a policewoman and her four companions, caught sniffing shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) at her friend's house on Thursday in Barangay Platero.

Laguna police director Senior Supt. Edwin Corvera identified the police officer as PO1 Joanna Marie Minorca, 29, assigned with the Laguna Industrial Police Assistance Group (Lipag) in Port Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa.

He said Minorca was arrested with suspects Crispin Sarmiento, 41; Ronyleth Sta. Ana, 24; Guilbert Atienza, 28, of Canlubang, Calamba City; and Gloria Calimlim, 32, of Sta. Rosa.

Corvera said residents in the area informed Biñan police that several persons, including a policewoman, were seen having a pot session

inside Sarmiento's house.

Corvera then ordered that the report be verified. When police stormed Sarmiento's house, Minorca and two of her friends were seen holding a foil and a clear pipe believed to be used in sniffing the prohibited substance.

The stunned suspects tried to evade arrest but police were able to block their exit in the backyard of the house.

Confiscated from them were a small plastic sachet containing suspected shabu, an aluminum foil strip with residue of suspected shabu and other paraphernalia.

Corvera said Minorca was interrogated to check whether she is involved in protecting drug pushers in the area.

"We have already filed a criminal charge against Minorca. We are also preparing an ad-

ministrative case and a summary dismissal against the suspect," Corvera said.

He denied accusations that the police are only after small time and street drug pushers. He said they are also eyeing high profile individuals involved in the drug trade.

Corvera said they are now validating the drug tests done among police units in the province. He disclosed the three police officers were tested positive for drug use.

Last Thursday, Corvera presented 190 arrested suspects involved in the illegal drug trade.

He said they are having problems with the increased number of inmates in the provincial jail. The majority of inmates, he said, are involved in drugs. **Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau**

Light a candle for Bishop Fortich, Namfrel head asks electorate

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—For those who fought bravely for clean and honest elections, please light a candle for Bishop Emeritus Antonio Y. Fortich and ask his intercession for the challenges of next year's crucial elections.

This was the call made by Jose Concepcion Jr., chair of the National Citizen's Movement for Free Elections (Namfrel), as a way of honoring the memory of Fortich, who passed away July 3.

"We dedicate ourselves (to) this mission, in tribute to Bishop Fortich, who endured burning in order to give light to others. We light a candle to remember him and vow to keep it strongly burning, never giving in to darkness," Concepcion said in a statement sent to the Diocese of Bacolod yesterday.

Fortich was one of the pioneers and stalwarts of the Namfrel, which he helped organize in 1983 and

where he served as national co-chairman until his retirement from the Diocese of Bacolod in 1989.

Concepcion said Fortich, in retirement, had "remained an active supporter of Namfrel and its advocacy for clean, honest and peaceful elections."

In 2000, Concepcion and Fortich received, on behalf of Namfrel, the Edsa People Power Freedom Award conferred by the EDSA People Power Commission on the elections watchdog group for its "unflinching dedication to the holding of free, fair and honest elections and for being a model of civic action and bravery."

"We renew our commitment as the citizen's arm of the Commission on Elections to help the Comelec succeed in the electoral automation. That would be the best gift the Comelec can give the country and the memory of Bishop Fortich," Concepcion said.

"The bishop maintained many causes and, above all, as bishop, he was an ideal shepherd to his flock, particularly the poor and oppressed. He was a recognized leader and servant among bishops in the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines and the Bishops-Businessmen's Conference for Human Development," he added.



FORTICH

Tacloban militant groups rally against American intervention

TACLOBAN CITY—Close to 400 members of different militant groups based in this city staged a march-rally yesterday denouncing what they said was the continuing "American Prostitution" of the country's political and economic policies.

Melvin Anino, secretary general of Bayan Muna-Eastern Visayas, which spearheaded the rally coinciding with the Filipino-American Friendship Day, said the intervention of America is not helping the country.

"There is no reason for us to mark this so-called Fil-American Friendship Day as they continue to intervene in our political and economic policies. That's American prostitution. The relationship prevailing between the two nations is that (between) an oppressor, which is the US, and the oppressed, which is the Philippines," he said.

Among the policies they described to

have institutionalized American presence and intervention in the country are trade liberalization and the implementation of the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA).

Anino said the reported endorsement by American president George W. Bush for President Macapagal-Arroyo to run in the 2004 presidential elections showed once again "the American's intervention (in) our internal affairs."

Members of Sagupa, Kilusang Mayo Uno and Anak-Pawis also joined the rally.

The protesters started their half-day march-rally at the city's old bus terminal, located at the Manuel Quezon Boulevard, sneaking their way to the streets of Justice Romualdez, Salazar, Avenida, Real and back to Justice Romualdez where Rizal Park is located. **Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau**



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
PROVINCE OF BULACAN
OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL TREASURER
MALOLOS CITY

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

We would like to remind everyone who owns a building, house, lot, machine and other forms of real property in the province of Bulacan to pay your due real property tax on time to avoid penalty. Here are the deadlines of payment for each quarter:

Third Quarter - September 30, 2003
(July to September)

Fourth Quarter - December 31, 2003
(October to December)

(SGD.) **BELINDA B. BARTOLOME**
Provincial Treasurer

Gov't turns over Buliok complex to residents



UNDERSECRETARY Samsamin Ampatuan (right) of the Office on Muslim Affairs gives the Koran to Abas Pendatun (left) during yesterday's turnover of a complex in Buliok, Pagalungan, Maguindanao. Also in the photo are DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman, Presidential adviser Eduardo Ermita and Presidential assistant for Mindanao Jess Dureza.

RYAN LIM

PIKIT, North Cotabato—The Macapagal administration yesterday turned over the Buliok complex to residents of the area, nearly four months after soldiers seized control of its villages from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

As the rites were nearing the end, soldiers also slowly distanced themselves from the complex, which once served as the refuge of rebel chief Salamat Hashim after the fall of the MILF's Camp Abubakar in 2001.

Military officials said the pull-out would not be absolute. Soldiers would still maintain their position in the surrounding villages.

President Macapagal-Arroyo sent her peace adviser Eduardo Ermita, Presidential adviser on Peace Process, Social Welfare Sec. Corazon Soliman, anti-poverty commissioner Teresita Deles, Presidential assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza and Muslim Affairs undersecretary Zamzamin Ampatuan, for the formal turnover of the complex to residents, who recently returned home from months of living in various evacuation centers here and in Maguindanao.

Maguindanao Board member

Sultan Abbas Pendatun accepted the Holy Koran from Ampatuan during the turnover ceremonies. The handing over of the Koran, Islam's holiest book, indicated that the complex is once again the domain of civilians.

Ermita said the turnover shows how sincere the government is in restoring peace in Mindanao.

"All happenings are but temporary, there will be a time (when) all of these (areas) will be peaceful," Ermita said.

Abbas, who spoke in behalf of the Pendatun clan which included Salamat, said the turnover was a positive development toward peace in Mindanao.

"This is for a better tomorrow, a road to peace," he said.

"This is one way of asking the residents to return to their residence," Dureza said.

Soliman also handed P50,000 to Abbas as fund for the maintenance of the Islamic Center, which Salamat used as his residence.

But the government's peace overture was marred by yesterday's 25-minute clash between soldiers and MILF rebels in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte.

The MILF said while the gov-

ernment was talking peace, it was sending its soldiers to attack rebel forces on the ground.

Maj. Gen. Trifonio Salazar, commander of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, said two rebels were slain in the clash.

Salazar said elements of the 44th Infantry Battalion, under Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, were conducting a regular patrol in Barangay Bulacan when the clash ensued.

"(The soldiers) spotted movements of armed elements; when they checked on it (sic), they saw the rebel," Salazar said.

He said none of the soldiers was hurt, "because they caught the rebels by surprise."

Salazar said although none of the slain rebels was recovered, the military has "enough indicator that we inflicted casualty."

He also said the rebels could be planning another attack in Siocon when the clash occurred.

More than 10 people were killed when MILF rebels stormed the town in May.

The attack prompted Ms. Macapagal to suspend the peace talks with the rebel group. Dennis Jay C. Santos and Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau.

7 doctors agree to work in Samar 'rebel hotspots'

By Eden B. Cidro
PDI Visayas Bureau

BORONGAN, Eastern Samar—Despite the insurgency problem in Samar Island, seven doctors have agreed to work in towns described as rebel hotspots under the Department of Health's "Doctors to the Barrios" program.

Four will go to Northern Samar towns of Mapanas, Lope de Vega, Rosario and Silvino Lobos. Two are assigned in San Jose de Buan and San Jorge in Samar. One will be working in Maslog, Eastern Samar.

One of the doctors, Alexis Cayoca of Davao City, said he had expected to be assigned to a depressed area, where some of the more common problems are the lack of communications facilities and insurgency.

Coyoca, who is assigned to Mapanas, however, said that in spite of all the expected problems and even possible risks to his own safety, he said he looked forward to his assignment.

He said doctors to the barrios must be willing to serve in dangerous situations.

The parents of another doctor, Johanna Borra, of Janiway, Iloilo, are apprehensive about her working far from home. She is the el-

dest, and the only girl in the family.

Borra, however, said she expects difficulties in her area, like the lack of medical facilities, and the peace and order problem, but she believed she would be able to overcome these through prayers. Borra is assigned to Lope de Vega town.

Dr. Julius Cidro, Doctor to the Barrios (DTTB) batch coordinator for the Visayas, said Samar Island has the most number of doctors for this year's batch of the DTTB program.

Twenty-five doctors were accepted into the DTTB 2003 program. They are a breed of new, young doctors, full of hope that they can make a difference in their communities.

The Doctors to the Barrios Program was launched in 1993. It aims to assign committed, competent, community oriented and dedicated medical practitioners to communities that have no doctors.

They will serve as Municipal Health Officers, reaching out and serving all barrios in the municipality, including the most inaccessible ones.

The program aims to ensure quality health care service to depressed, marginalized and underserved areas.

Pampanga priests take evangelism to TV

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Pulpit plus television.

The fusion is an uncharted territory for the clergy in Pampanga. But three priests—Fathers Pablo David, Raul de los Santos and Ed de Leon—are facing the boob tube with lots of verve.

The three took less than two weeks to premiere their show "Men in White." Through Infomax.8 (Channel 8 on the local Satellite Cable Network) and its seven cable partners, the program will be shown all over Pampanga at 9 p.m. today.

"It's a 'God talk show,' and priests, men who wear the white cassock, are mere medium," David said. "This is a way of sharing the Gospel, through media."

Multi-awarded film director Marilou Diaz-Abaya agreed to direct, for free, the show's initial episodes.

"With the new siege against the Church (sic), we're being challenged to respond to criticism and to accusations, *na binabatikos tayo* (that we are being lambasted) for our weaknesses. We admit those weaknesses, but we cannot stop there. We have to move on by reflection, by serving the community better," Abaya said.

Through the one-hour weekly program, she said she could help "bring the real priests, the real men who are blessed and gifted beneath the *sutana* (cassock) back to the trust and embrace of the congregation."

The members of the clergy, Abaya said, need support because "far many more priests, who inspire the people they serve, are unsung and unknown."

As a film director, she said she could "help reverse that and to transform the relationship between the clergy and the public from mistrust and disappointment to hope and something that's more inspiring." Through her craft, she also works with many priests in Mindanao in using television as a medium for evangelization, she said.

In the preview of the pilot episode that discussed the topic, "I don't know how to love Him" (taken from the musical hit Jesus Christ Superstar), David, De los Santos and De Leon explored how they and the Catholics relate with God.

During the taping, the three priests worked without a script. They were spontaneous, expressing themselves in everyday language, while punctuating their views with humor.

They did not touch on the alleged sex scandals involving Bishops Crisostomo Yalung and Teodoro Bacani Jr., both Kapampangans.

Pampanga Archbishop Paciano Aniceto said he wanted the issue left to Church authorities investigating the issue.

David and his elder brother, Prof. Randolph David, are Abaya's friends (Abaya directed Randy in the defunct television program Public Forum, which ran for 12 years), while De Leon was Abaya's former student at the Ateneo de Manila University. De los Santos is Abaya's spiritual director.

Mimaropa police beefs up troops

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—After recent attacks of the New People's Army in different parts of the country, the Mimaropa Regional Police Office (MRPO) said it was training its new recruits in NPA-infested areas in the region.

Mimaropa police director Senior Supt. Alejandro Lapinid said in a phone interview that they are not taking any chances after NPA rebels raided an army detachment in Samar.

Lapinid said they had added 72 policemen in Oriental Mindoro and 76 police officers in Occidental Mindoro. These provinces are known as the "haven of the communist movement" in Southern Tagalog because of their mountainous landscape and the looming poverty among residents, a majority of which are farmers, he explained.

More than half of the recruits are newly trained, while others are reassigned from police units.

"We are committed to (thwarting) possible attacks of these lawless elements. We are bound to protect the public interest and we are always prepared," Lapinid told the INQUIRER.

The police director added that they are working with the Philippine Army's 204th Brigade based in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro in gathering intelligence reports on the presence of the armed leftist group. Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau.

ROUNDUP

Ex-rebel killed

BAGUIO CITY—A rebel returnee wanted for murder was killed in a shootout with government troops in Dasol, Pangasinan, reports from the National Bureau of Investigation in Dagupan City said. Lawyer Ricardo Pangan, NBI Dagupan chief, said Pablo Buaga, the second most wanted criminal in the province, was killed after a 10-minute shootout with members of the 300th Air Intelligence Service Group of the Philippine Air Force and NBI agents at Barangay Gais-Guile in Dasol. Pangan said Buaga was facing charges of murder and illegal possession of firearms in the courts of Dasol and Burgos towns. Recovered from Buaga were his M-16 Armalite rifle, grenades and bullets.

Goblieth Moulie, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

American killed in mishap

BAMBANG, Nueva Vizcaya—The wife of an American executive was killed, while her husband was hurt Thursday, when their van hit another vehicle at the national highway in Barangay Almaguer. Police identified the fatality as Diane Persons. Her husband, Gary Persons, 57, regional director of the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL), was taken to the Veterans Regional Hospital in Bayombong town. The couple is based in Bagabag town. Police said a Nissan Safari overtook another vehicle but hit the victims' oncoming van.

Ben Moses Ebreo, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Korean found dead

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—A Korean was found dead by his neighbors in Barangay Buliran here on Wednesday. Police said San Young Lee, 33, a native of Busan, South Korea, succumbed to a bullet wound in the head. His neighbors said they heard a gunshot from Lee's rented house around 11:30 p.m. Wednesday. Police recovered a .45 cal. pistol near Lee's body, prompting investigators to suspect the Korean committed suicide.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Village official held

COTABATO CITY—A bible-crazed councilor in Barangay Poblacon 3, Midsayap, North Cotabato was arrested minutes after he stabbed and killed his two-year old nephew on Thursday. Chief Insp. Eduardo Marquez, Midsayap police chief, said Kagawad George Corpuz knifed to death Gerry Leterato. The boy succumbed to 14 blade wounds on different parts of his body. Marquez said neighbors were alarmed when they heard the child screaming in pain. When they checked on it, they saw the village official repeatedly stabbing the victim. The child's parents were not in the house, when the incident happened.

Charlie C. Sefase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Elders, NGOs want involvement in Abra river pollution study

BAGUIO CITY—Community elders and members of nongovernment organizations want to be involved in an independent study on the extent of pollution along Abra River, to be conducted by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau.

The Save the Abra River Movement (Starm) said elders in Mankayan town in Benguet and Cervantes and Quirino towns in Ilocos Sur are ready to join in the investigation to ensure transparency.

"There should be other experts who should join (in) the study like geologists and pharmacologists from the University of the Philippines," said Dr. Ana Marie Leung, Starm spokesperson.

This demand came after the MGB set up a monitoring committee to conduct

a new monitoring and water tests on the river.

Starm and communities along the Abra river system claimed that mine tailings from the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. (LCMC) in Mankayan were discharged into the river.

LCMC has provided a P1-million fund to support the study. Starm members, however, warned that the results of the new tests might favor the mining firm, because it released money for the new tests.

Glenn Batilando, LCMC environment manager, said they are willing to accommodate representatives of Starm and scientists affiliated with the group, provided they coordinate and cooper-

ate with the Mines Rehabilitation Fund Committee (MRFC).

The LCMC has denied that it was responsible for the pollution of the Abra River.

Batilando said the firm's tailings dam controlled pollution in that river, contrary to the findings of Starm.

He said the firm's tailings dam 5-A treats mine effluents before the water is discharged into the Mankayan River in Benguet, a tributary of the Abra River.

He said actual mine tailings are deposited in the tailings dam under strict guidelines from the MGB.

Earlier, Felizardo Gacad Jr., chief of the MGB's mining environment and

safety division, said the MRFC has set aside P1 million from its P5-million fund for the investigation of the alleged pollution.

The MRFC is composed of representatives of the MGB, mining companies and local governments.

Leung said farmers living along the Abra river system sought the study on pollution of the river in September last year.

She said farmers in Quirino and Cervantes in Ilocos Sur, which are near the boundary of Mankayan, have complained of poor harvests when they use river water in irrigating rice fields. Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Countdown for justice



WAPILE

IT IS exactly 418 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

Media groups help sacked radio workers

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

INTERNATIONAL and national media groups have taken up the cudgels for 28 workers of Bombo Radyo in Tacloban City, who were laid off last March.

The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) have pledged their support for the 28 former employees of radio station dyWR, who have been picketing their office on Santo Niño Street since March 12.

Emma Walters, project manager of the IFJ's Asia-Pacific office, said the federation will donate \$1,000 for the workers' legal case against the Bombo Radyo management.

The IFJ has members in more than 110 countries. The NUJP, an organization of journalists, also pledged its support for the dismissed employees.

The radio station shut down after 11 years of

broadcasting, terminating all its employees, including reporters, news anchors, technicians and talents, many of whom have been employed by the station since it started operations.

In a memorandum to station manager Renato Esmale dated March 10, Rogelio Florete, president and chief executive officer of Bombo Radyo Philippines, said the network decided to close down the station because of the "continued downturn in the financial performance" of the station. Florete said the station incurred huge losses.

But Allan Amistoso, president of the dyWR Bombo Radyo-Tacloban Employees Union, said the closure was "a clear case of union-busting." He said the closure came an hour after Esmale received a letter from the union, requesting voluntary recognition of the union as the bargaining representative of the employees.

Amistoso said their station was singled out among the 43 AM and FM stations of the net-

work, because they "fought for their rights."

"Our families are hungry but we will not stop our fight," Amistoso said.

The case is now pending with the National Labor Relations Commission in Eastern Visayas.

The NUJP and IFJ also raised the plight of provincial correspondents of national newspapers, who are considered the lowest paid journalists despite providing critical national coverage and boosting circulation and advertisements for newspapers.

Citing a survey, INQUIRER correspondent Ma. Diosa Labiste said around 200 correspondents nationwide lack security of tenure and benefits, under the system where most are paid by column-inch of their published stories.

These issues were raised during the IFJ-NUJP forum on press freedom and ethics and union organizing seminar held at the Executive Plaza Hotel in Malate, Manila.

INQUIRER *Visayas*

'ISLAND OF TEARS, ISLAND OF HOPE'

The story of Bishop Antonio Y. Fortich

By Fr. Niall O'Brien
Contributor

(Editor's Note: The author is a Columbian priest, who has worked in the Diocese of Negros for almost 40 years and has known Bishop Emeritus Antonio Fortich all that time. He was imprisoned and later exiled by the Marcos dictatorship but has since returned to the Island of Negros. He is the author of the best-selling book, "Revolution from the Heart," and another, "Island of Tears, Island of Hope," which he dedicated personally to the beloved prelate, who died on Wednesday in Bacolod City.)

WE were sitting at the table in the sacristy of the cathedral, waiting to go out and concelebrate with Monsignor Fortich. He was coming to the end of his period as bishop of Bacolod and, while I sat there, somebody pushed in front of me a photocopy of an article, a short article, aimed against Fortich. It claimed he was a communist.

I said to my companion at the table the bishop will be along in a couple of minutes; he's not well (at that time he had phlebitis). Let's just not disturb his mind with this bit of invective. And I put it aside. Unfortunately, my friend felt that the bishop should see it, and he placed it in front of him when he arrived.

We were sipping coffee. Monsignor read it silently then put it down for a moment, and said aloud, "I have no problem with a world in which there are rich and poor; you have an automobile, I have a bicycle, so what? But I cannot accept that some people have to live by scavenging for food in the garbage cans of others."

He said this with such a tremor in his voice that I was very moved. I felt, for a moment, that I saw into the depth of his soul and what had motivated him during this last quarter of a century as Bishop of Bacolod.

'House of the people'

In 1967, when Bishop Emmanuel Yap died, Fortich, as it were, was swept into power as bishop of Bacolod by the sheer will of the people. As soon as he became bishop, on his very first day he said the Bishop's Palace will be called "the house of the people," and he immediately introduced a wide range of social amelioration projects. Here are some of them:

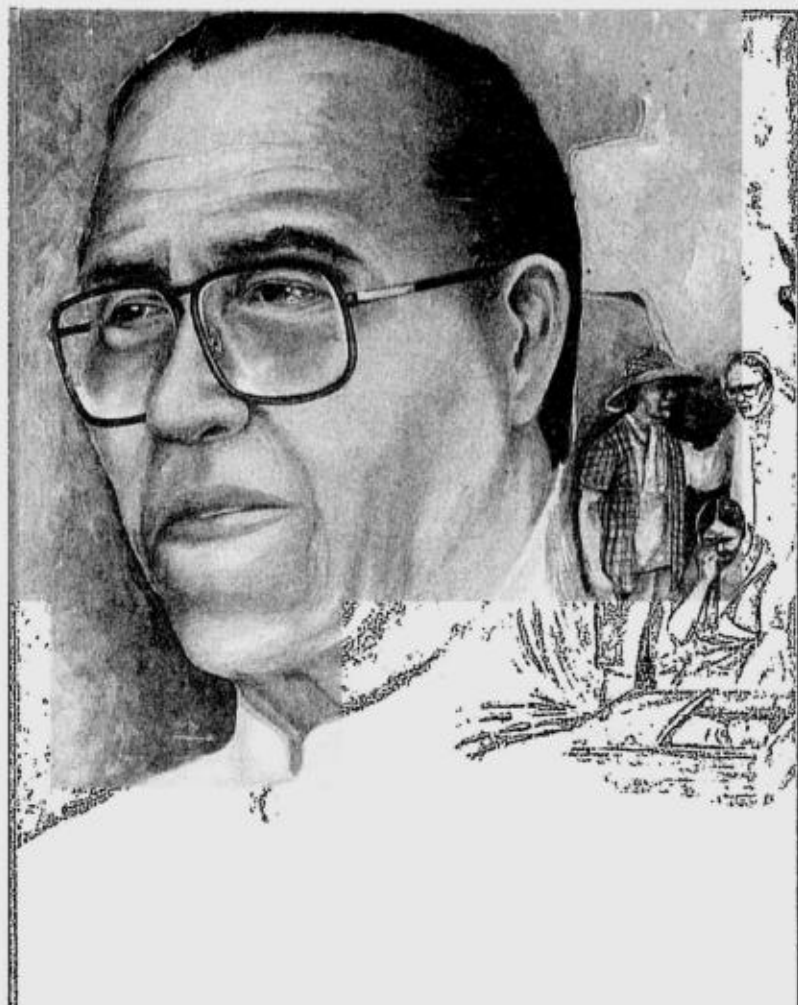
- Immediate implementation of land reform on church properties
- Opening of the Social Action Center under Fr. Luis Jalandoni
- Purchase of an old sugar mill, transferring it, loaded in 80 trucks in convoy, to a remote mountain valley and the setting up of the Daconcogon Sugar, Rice and Corn Cooperative
- Starting of a legal aid program eventually under lawyer Frank Cruz, with two lawyers free for the poor
- Allowing of Fr. Edgar Saguinsin and Fr. Hector Mauri to start the National Federation of Sugarcane Workers (NF-SW)
- Setting up of a scheme to liberate the *sacada* with Bishop Cornelius De Wit of Antique on the neighboring island of Panay

But probably the most important of all was that he convinced most of his own priests that service of the poor was essential to their ministry. And, indeed, he carried many of the *hacenderos* and businessmen with him, infecting them with his enthusiasm and encouraging them to get involved. What a man! It was as if in some other life, he had kissed the Blarney Stone and used his bit of magic for all it was worth to convince his flock to follow him on the road to social transformation.

As a result of these extraordinary activities, he received the Ramon Magsaysay Award. It was with great pride that those of us who loved him went to Manila to support him when he received that prize. His secret was that he listened to lay people very carefully and genuinely allowed them to participate. The success of the Daconcogon Mill was due in part to the fact that he himself kept a personal eye on finances. People knew that, with him at the helm, the money was safe. God grant that it will continue that way in Daconcogon.

His predecessor, the saintly Bishop Yap, was very conservative in the old fashioned way. Fortich never criticized him, but he did find ingenious ways around some of the extraordinary prohibitions, which the bishop had introduced.

I recall that Bishop Yap refused per-



mission for a certain new church to be blessed. He then flew off to Manila, leaving Fortich to face the irate donors and patrons of the new church. But Fortich telegraphed Yap in Manila: "Request permission to bless tabernacle!" How could Bishop Yap refuse? And of course the patrons and sponsors did not notice the difference.

Difficult position

When martial law was declared, Fortich was in a difficult position. His diocese was alive and thriving, and he felt it unwise to have an open confrontation with the government, which the bishops agreed was the *de facto* government if not the *de jure* one. He needed government cooperation if his social projects were to work.

At first, he supported Marcos or, at least, had an open mind at the beginning of martial law. But as time went on, it became very clear that the purpose of martial law was really to stop the ferment for social change that was taking place in the diocese of Bacolod and all over the Philippines.

Development programs, yes, provided they cost nothing and that there was no sharing of wealth. Many of Marcos' own highly publicized development programs that involved billions of pesos ended up not ever going to the poor at all.

Many of the priests now were sympathetic to the New People's Army (NPA), and some of them actually joined the National Democratic Front, the political face of the NPA.

This was a dilemma to Fortich. He strongly disagreed with these priests, but in his usual way, he listened and continued to plow ahead with his social projects. The *sacada* project was a noble failure. It never succeeded, but, strangely enough, it had quite a psychological impact on the landowners of Negros, and I believe that the treatment of the *sacada* notably improved as a result. It is important to say that, to this day, we are still receiving *sacada* from the neighboring island of Panay, and their condition is still on an inhumane level.

Fortich had quite a balancing act to do. On the one hand, some of his priests had clearly close connections with the NPA, and, on the other, he was trying to run a diocese where he had always been close friends with landowners. Not just friends. He went out of his way to personally marry them and baptize their children. His room was always open to them.

Turning point

But there was a turning point for him, when the scales fell from his eyes.

We priests had been saying to him for a long time that the military showed one face to him—pinstriped, educated in military academy, clean shaven, wide-eyed with sincerity—and another face in the mountains, where villages were burned down and people were being tortured and death squads were allowed loose to do what they wanted.

The turning point for Fortich came when he was persuaded to arbitrate over a land problem in Bago City. The people, knowing that the bishop would be there to plead their cause, came willingly to-

gether. But when the meeting was over, police outside arrested the people—men, women and children.

Fortich was livid. He had been lied to. His name was used to bring the people there. They had been promised safe passage and encouraged to speak up. He felt betrayed, and, I suppose, slightly ashamed in front of the people who had trusted him. He was never the same afterward.

So when it came to the famous *cause celebre* of his period as bishop, the murder by the NPA of the mayor of Kabankalan, which Pablito Sola and some of us priests were accused of plotting and executing, he took our side openly and attended almost 50 sessions of the court case. Earlier, he had blotted his copybook in Marcos' eyes by being one of the fearless bishops to sign a protest against martial law. He had backed down for a while after that. But eventually, he became convinced that martial law was devastatingly destructive of social and human life in the Philippines.

Indeed, to this day, we have not recovered from the heritage of martial law, and some of its main pillars are still in government.

You would be completely wrong if you saw Fortich as a rip-roaring radical. He was a man who kept his balance. For him, sacramental life of the Church was very important. He rarely gave out to the priests or wagged his finger.

But I recall him, on one occasion at our monthly meeting, standing up at the end and saying: "It's great to be talking about these social issues and feel you're part of the national struggle. But if someone is sick in your parish, are you there to attend to them?"

The Nuncio, Msgr. Bruno Torpigliani, had no time for Fortich because he stood up to him. In fact, the Nuncio took the side of President Marcos and even tried to block the Philippine bishops' historic letter, condemning Marcos and calling for non-violent resistance.

And when time came for Fortich to retire, he rushed the retirement with undue haste, asking Archbishop Alberto Piamonte to come over from Jaro to remind him to put in his letter of resignation. And that's where Fortich's greatness showed: the humility with which he accepted that public wound.

Spartan lifestyle

Fortich never accumulated money. Can I repeat that? He never accumulated money. He did have a beautiful house in Sum-ag, which he gave to the diocese to be used as a retreat center and which is still being used for *cursillos* to this day.

He retired to the spartan old priests' home and lived quietly there, attending to his plants. But, as he himself said, "there is no retirement from work for the poor."

He continued to carefully support and look after the Daconcogon Mill project and be open to so many other projects for the poor, which he did quietly. He was not a man for gallivanting around the world. He rarely left the diocese for abroad during his whole term as bishop. And if he went to Manila, he was usually back the next day.

One day, when he came back from Iloilo by plane in a storm, I said to him: Were

you not afraid, Monsignor? No, he said, the storm didn't worry me, what did worry me was that most of the dashboard instruments were held together with rubber bands and Scotch tape.

He was the eldest statesman of the bishops in the Philippines, revered by all for his wisdom. I suppose, what really has made him loved, especially in Bacolod, was his enduring personal relationships with so many people for whom he always had time. Frankly, I just don't know how he did it; I need to escape.

His door was always open, and hundreds of people will tell you a story of how he fixed their marriages, or helped them with problems with their children, or even with other complicated family problems—always with that lovely smile which we will all miss so much.

Hurts

Of course, there were many times when he felt deeply hurt, apart from the occasion of his retirement. It hurt him when priests left the priesthood. He used to say that priesthood is a gift and you should never return a gift. But still, they were welcomed back to visit him, and their children called him *Lolo* Bishop (Grandpa Bishop). Sometimes, a priest would leave and join the NPA and forget to say goodbye; that did hurt.

After he retired, he could not help becoming aware of scandals even among the clergy. He was a realist and knew that the fact that a priest was involved in social justice was no protection against temptation. In fact, social work opens doors to foreign funding, and that can easily be abused. That, too, hurt.

But he himself was never associated with scandal at anytime in his life. Yes, he had a battle with alcohol; we all knew that. He shared it with us, we discussed it with him, and it wasn't his fault. *Hacenderos* would come visit him, always carrying a bottle, and in the tradition of Filipinos, there was no way you could refuse.

However, there came a time when he knew he must stop, and I had to smile when he would come visit us in Daconcogon for a board meeting, and people would arrive carrying bottles, slamming them down on the table and saying, "This is Johnny Walker Black" or whatever. But his secretary would quietly say, "Well, I have Monsignor's own whisky here," and produce a bottle of what looked like special whisky just for the bishop. But the secretary, the bishop and I knew that it was cold tea.

Oh, there was one scandal in your life, Bishop. You were a scandal because you as bishop, at a time before others were thinking in these ways, took the side of the poor even though it really meant curtailing your own future and losing a chance of preferment, which, since you belong to the human race, must have been a sacrifice.

Peace zone

After his retirement, he took up work for peace and became a great inspiration for the now historic peace zone in Cantomanyug in Candoni.

The peace zone didn't just fall from the sky. Twenty years earlier, with the do-

nation from the Torres family, Fortich had set up a model community farm in that place. It was no surprise when, on that very spot, the first peace zone in the Philippines rose.

It was a decision by the local people that no military and no armed men from either side of the struggle could come into their area. It was a symbolic action, a cry in the dark, calling for someone to do something about the endless killings.

Fortich drove through the mountains for the inauguration of this peace zone. We were all there with him, proud of him that even in his old age he'd make such a journey. While we were there in the convento, a Huey helicopter arrived, blades screaming and firing up dust and dirt, and disgorged a whole crowd of soldiers in fatigues with machine guns.

I must admit that I felt very hostile toward them as they poured into the convento. I could see the dismay on the face of Fr. Rolex Nueva, the parish priest. What was going to happen to our inauguration? I was stunned by what happened next.

Fortich had brought sandwiches and egg, and soft drinks for his companions, but he ordered me to share them with the military. As I handed them out, much against my will, I could not resist the temptation of saying, "*Baka kulang pa ang inyong itlog*" (you might need more eggs). They laughed and somehow I began to smile again, and I realized that the bishop knew something about active nonviolence that refuses to see the "contra" as enemy and insists on appealing to their conscience—an action that helped defuse a very tense situation.

Eventually, we got in our jeep and made our way out to the remote hamlet of Cantomanyug. Unfortunately, a band of soldiers barred our way and wouldn't let us through. Not only that, what appeared to me to be a rent-a-crowd was gathered with a bullhorn. A man, with dark purple glasses and balaclava, stood above the others shouting at us, particularly at Fortich. He accused him of being a violent man and so many others.

Amazing grace

Looking over and seeing the old bishop standing there, way up in the hills as we were, when he could have been relaxing quietly at home, my heart went out to him. Here he was, being insulted and one of the worst things that this strange figure in the balaclava and dark glasses had to say was that Bishop Fortich was an oppressor of the poor.

The bishop stood there quietly, head bowed. A man, who had been given the Magsaysay Award, acclaimed throughout the Philippines for his indefatigable work for the poor, was being insulted and shouted at by ignorant paid hacks.

Finally, we decided to say Mass there in the barrio and not proceed to Cantomanyug. Indeed, we couldn't have proceeded if we wanted to because of the line of soldiers blocking our way.

We began the Mass—Fortich, maybe 40 priests and loads of ordinary people. The shouting continued, but as the Mass progressed, the shouting died down. And, to our amazement, gradually, the crowd swelled. Many people slipped past the military cordon and joined us. By the time of the consecration, a solemn silence came over the entire crowd.

I'll never forget it. I looked over at Father Nueva: his head was down and his hands were shielding his face. But from where I was standing, I could see that tears were streaming unchecked down his face. He was saddened that people should be so badly led, so deceived and taught to attack, humiliate and ridicule the only man on the whole island of Negros who has really tried to do something for them.

At the end of the Mass, a woman from Cantomanyug, from the peace zone, stepped forward. She was holding a baby. She took the microphone and pleaded for peace. The scene was so beautiful. It reminded me of Our Lady and the Child Jesus coming into the world to bring us peace.

That's just one of the many dramatic scenes from the life of Bishop Antonio Fortich. A man who gave up his future for the present; who decided once and for all that the Church is not a Church unless it is mother of the poor.

Someday, when peace has come to the mountains of Negros and land reform to the lowlands, Fortich will be remembered for the great human being that he was, and I would love to see a beautiful statue of him standing over at our plaza in Bacolod, reminding us of a man who brought our Church home to the poor.



A PORTRAIT of Fortich used on the cover of Fr. O'Brien's "Island of Tears, Island of Hope" book (left). Fortich and Fr. O'Brien (top) PHOTOS COURTESY OF FR. O'BRIEN

Solons grumbling over delayed pork

By Carlito Pablo

SOME congressmen are reportedly griping over the delay in the release of their pork barrel.

"There's even talk of boycotting the opening of Congress on July 28," said an administra-

tion congressman, referring to the day President Macapagal-Arroyo delivers her State of the Nation Address before a joint session of Congress.

"We're looking like fools before our constituents," said the congressman, who asked not to be

named. "We promised them projects like road improvement and barangay halls, and we're the ones who will run for reelection, not Boncodin."

The reference was to Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, whose department is

responsible for releasing the pork barrel funds of congressmen consisting of P50 million in public works projects and P15 million in Priority Assistance Development Funds, for a total of P65 million each per year.

DOLE orders firm: Pay 'sleepless' workers P5.8M

From page A1

cials denied giving workers Duromine, a regulated drug belonging to the amphetamine and methamphetamine families.

The officials were quoted as saying that workers were given ascorbic acid tablets coupled with energy drinks like Lipovitan and Extra Joss, and that these were given only during peak seasons.

Taytay Mayor June Zapanta said this was also what Anvil treasurer Augusto Lazo told him during a closed-door, 30-minute meeting at the town hall yesterday morning.

"Mr. Lazo said he gave his workers ascorbic acid, not Duromine. He also gave them an energy drink," Zapanta said.

In interviews with the INQUIRER for the special report, Anvil workers said they had earlier thought they were being given ascorbic acid and other vitamins.

Zapanta set a meeting with Lazo after learning of the INQUIRER report. He visited the factory the other day but was not allowed inside. The INQUIRER caught up with Lazo after the meeting, but he refused to talk.

Zapanta said Lazo was "cool all throughout the meeting" and amenable to cooperating with the investigation that the municipal government had initiated.

"They're willing to be inspect-

ed by the DOLE or by us," Zapanta said.

Drug tests

Acting Labor Secretary Manuel Imson said the proposed drug tests on Anvil workers would be handled by the police.

He noted the DOLE team's recommendation that the tests be conducted within the "detection period" of two to four days, depending on the metabolism rate and excretion of the individual user.

The DOLE team said some of the workers were reluctant to talk but a number cooperated and validated "discrepancies" noted in the testimony of certain management officials.

In its report, the team said: "Workers' descriptions of the tablets given them does not fit the description of the ordinary ascorbic acid tablet. The tablets, according to the workers, were small, white, and given so that they would not fall asleep."

Zapanta said Rizal police chief Senior Supt. Carlito Dimaano wanted to raid the Anvil factory after reading the INQUIRER report.

"He was furious," the mayor said. "He wanted to raid the factory. Fortunately he listened to me. I asked him, 'Do we have papers? We can get sued if we don't have papers. Besides, what will we find there now?'"

Zapanta insisted that his main concern was to protect the workers, and not to close down the factory.

"We don't want anyone to lose his job," he said.

Anvil Ensembles is a subcontractor of baby clothes for such First World companies as Sears & Roebuck.

A group of workers from Novelty Philippines Inc., of which Anvil is also a subcontractor, yesterday picketed the factory in Barangay Bangiad.

Partido ng Masa chair Renato Magtubo said the picket was intended to show disgust over how workers were being treated by capitalists.

"These capitalist lords within Anvil management are no doubt worse than the drug lords that the government now wants to put behind bars," Magtubo said.

Calls for investigation

Anselmo Avenido Jr., chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, admitted that it had not heard of the operations of Anvil Ensembles.

"Now that we know, we will investigate," Avenido told the INQUIRER.

Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II has also ordered a probe, to be conducted by the Garments and Textile Export Board, an attached

agency of the Department of Trade and Industry.

"We are investigating these allegations to protect our workers as well as the export business," Roxas said in a statement.

He added: "The possibility of unscrupulous persons deceiving government, customers and workers for profit exists. That is why the DTI-GTEB is working with the private sector and other government agencies to prevent this."

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, said the DOLE should find out who is the real employer of the factory workers who had complained about the sweatshop conditions at Anvil.

"Who is accountable? Is it Anvil Ensembles, or the contractors themselves?" Pangilinan said in a phone interview.

Pinpointing accountability will help determine "the liability in the employer-employee relationship based on labor laws," the senator said.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., vice chair of the Senate labor committee, also said a thorough investigation by the DOLE was in order. *With reports from Luigé del Puerto, Michelle V. Remo, Christine O. Avendaño and Christian V. Esguerra*

KL can't host ...

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end the decades-old rebellion in the southern Philippines could start.

"It (the issue of arrest warrants and bounties) has to be resolved," the Agence France Presse quoted Malaysian Ambassador Taufik Mohamed Noor as saying. "It is a prerequisite."

A lower court in Davao has a standing order for the arrest of MILF chief Salamat Hashim and dozens of other MILF leaders, including top rebel negotiator Murad Ebrahim. The warrants were issued in connection with their alleged role in the bombing of the city's airport and wharf in March and April that claimed at least 38 lives. The MILF has denied any responsibility for the bombings.

The government had also imposed a P5 million bounty for each of the rebel leaders.

MILF spokesperson Mohagher Iqbal said his group dared not risk the detention of its leaders, and demanded that Manila drop the criminal charges against them.

Retired general Renato de Villa, Presidential Adviser on Strategic Concerns, said yesterday that the Macapagal government was prepared "to undertake legal steps in order for the negotiations to be facilitated."

As far as the rewards offered by the government for the arrest of Salamat and his key lieutenants, "the executive is prepared to act on the problem," De Villa said.

De Villa told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines that Ms Macapagal could not order the courts to lift the warrants because the judiciary is independent. He said the rebels should initiate court action against the warrants.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said it was just a matter of the MILF going through the court process.

No safe conduct pass

De Villa ruled out the grant of safe conduct passes to Salamat and the others, saying it would be "incompatible with the existing warrants of arrest" against them.

But Iqbal has said the MILF, as a revolutionary organization, does not recognize the Philippine constitution and will not follow court processes.

"If they do not accept the proposition that this negotiation will be under our Constitution and our laws, then it will not move forward, unfortunately," De Villa said.

In recent informal meetings, the government and the MILF have agreed to resume talks stalled since 2001, but the rebels have demanded that the warrants be recalled first.

Peace negotiators

Yesterday, the MILF said they may ask Ms Macapagal to head the government panel if Manila insists that Salamat lead the MILF negotiators.

"Choosing our negotiators is our sole prerogative and is purely internal to the MILF," MILF vice chair for political affairs Ghazali Jaafar was quoted as saying in the rebel website.

"This is to give the same dose

of medicine to the government which has been demanding that Salamat head the MILF negotiating panel," said a statement by Jun Mantawil, head of the MILF's secretariat for the peace process.

Jaafar accused the government of "introducing so many roadblocks against the immediate resumption of the peace talks."

Autonomy only

The guerrillas have been fighting for Moro self-rule in southern Mindanao for about three decades. The government is offering autonomy.

"The idea of the creation of an independent Islamic state is absolutely non-negotiable," De Villa said.

De Villa said he believes that once the peace talks get underway, "a peace agreement is achievable within 90 days," noting that the two sides had reached agreement in principle on many of the issues on the table in previous peace negotiations.

He said the MILF would be offered limited self-rule in the south, similar to and within the framework of a 1996 agreement with the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

One less terrorist refuge

De Villa said a peace accord with Muslim separatists would leave international terror groups with one less refuge in Southeast Asia.

While the MILF denies any links with Jemaah Islamiyah (JI) and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida, there has been evidence of activity by JI and other foreign militant groups in Mindanao in the past, De Villa said.

A witness at the Jakarta trial of JI's alleged leader Abu Bakar Bashir last Thursday detailed links between JI and Muslim militants in the southern Philippines and Thailand.

Military operations in Mindanao had revealed "some training in the past involving (not only) JI, but other people from some other countries," said De Villa.

The JI has been blamed for a series of deadly bomb blasts in Indonesia, including the Bali blasts that claimed more than 200 lives last year.

Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand have also detained a number of JI suspects accused of plotting bomb attacks on foreign embassies and western targets in the region.

Southeast Asian governments say many of the detained suspects had received terrorist training in MILF bases on Mindanao, a charge vigorously denied by the MILF leadership.

"These are all indications that the south has really become a difficult area in so far as our security is concerned because of the involvement of other nationals in illegal as well as anti-government activities out there," De Villa said.

Southeast Asians are "so close to each other in the region that any major armed conflict that happens in one part of the region resonates on the neighbors and in some other parts of the region," De Villa said. *Reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau, Gil Cabacungan, AFP/AP*

Human body worth ...

From page A1

Even an overweight, out-of-shape body could bring in millions when broken down to its valuable fluids, tissues and germ-fighting antibodies.

There is, of course, a major catch: many of the valuable human body parts are those a person could not live without.

But it does lay to rest the old concept that the human body, when broken down to its basic elements, is only worth pocket change.

Wired editor in chief Chris Anderson said the price tag gives an idea of the progress of medicine and biology, and shows how much more sophisticated we have become at understanding the complexity of the human body.

"We tried to find some number through which you can quantify the magnitude of the change in technology that we are all experiencing," Anderson said.

The prices, Wired warned, are based on maximum dollar values for some of the most marketable substances, and makes the unlikely assumption that every trace of those substances could be extracted from living tissue for sale.

To avoid issues such as illegal black market trade in organs, the survey was based on projected prices in the United States and

did not take into account potential differences in poverty stricken Third World countries.

Most expensive

Due to advances in science and biotechnology, vital organs are no longer the most valuable body parts, the survey demonstrated. That distinction now belongs to bone marrow at \$23 million (P1.2 billion), based on 1,000 grams at \$23,000 per gram.

DNA, found in every cell, could fetch \$9.7 million (P514 million) at \$1.3 million per gram, while extracting antibodies could bring \$7.3 million (P386.9 million).

The accompanying article did point out that the cost of living in a sterile plastic bubble could eat up a lot of the profit from immune system sales.

By comparison, a lung was priced at \$116,400 (P6.2 million), a kidney at \$91,400 (P4.8 million) and a heart was worth a mere \$57,000 (P3 million), based on research of cost estimates from hospitals and insurance companies.

On the reproductive front, the survey found a fertile woman could sell 32 egg cells over eight years for a grand total of \$224,000 (P11.9 million). To approach that amount, a man would have to make 12 sperm donations a month for 20 years. *Reuters*

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President may resume ...

From page A1

tial spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said it was not a good time to stir up the public with another debate on the death penalty when the President was already moving to fight the illegal drugs trade.

Authorities have been alarmed by the rise of vigilante activities directed against drug pushers in the almost two years that the moratorium on the death penalty has been in effect.

House Rep. Rozanno Rufino Biazon, a congressional advocate for reviving the death penalty, warned that the moratorium against executions has only created another problem—vigilante justice.

There were many indications that people would rather see drug traffickers put to death, he said.

"The odd thing is that we have not heard the administration make a stand against these gruesome vigilante killings, yet it makes a stand against the legal penalty of death by lethal injection. Worst of all, it even tried to appoint to the anti-drug campaign personalities who have reputations of [using] extra-legal methods of dealing with criminals," Biazon said.

There was an earlier idea, since dropped, to have the anti-drugs campaign headed by known tough law enforcers Sen. Robert Barbers and former police general and Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, and two former "star" associates of Lim in the Manila police force, Lucio Margallo and Reynaldo Jaylo. Only Jaylo was given an official job in the campaign.

The President last year suspended judicial executions by injection while the issue of abolishing capital punishment was debated in Congress.

Since then, congressional discussions have so far failed to get the Death Penalty Law abolished or amended.

There are about a thousand people on death row, 38 of whom were convicted of drug-related crimes. Possession of large amounts of illegal drugs is punishable by death through injection.

Influential Church leaders have lobbied against the death penalty, and Bunye has said that while the President has expressed support for executing con-

victed big-time drug offenders she also defers to the views of the Church and "other well-meaning sectors of society."

Biazon said the government cannot expect to win the battle against the drug menace if the moratorium on the death penalty was allowed to stay.

"The declaration to eradicate the drug problem will remain just that—a declaration. No matter how tough the President talks about fighting this scourge of society, if the government continues to act softly on the issue of death for traffickers, the anti-drug campaign will just be in vain," he said.

Biazon said drug traffickers would choose life imprisonment because they can continue their illicit trade within the safe confines of a prison cell, making a mockery of the anti-drug campaign.

He said it was unfair that drug traffickers continue to profit from such a lenient policy while law enforcement personnel risked life and limb in going after the drug syndicates.

"The intent of the law against drugs is clear—death to drug traffickers. That is even prominently written on forms that are required by the Bureau of Immigration to be filled up by persons entering the Philippines. But with the moratorium in place, who will take those warnings seriously?" he said.

Except for Caloocan City Rep. Edgardo Erice, most local and police officials in northern Metro Manila agree that the moratorium on the death penalty,

particularly for drug offenders, should be lifted to show the government's seriousness about the campaign.

Stressing that he was opposed to the death penalty not just for drug suspects but for every law offender, Erice said he believed in punishment coupled with rehabilitation.

He prefers reforms in the prison system, particularly in rehabilitation programs, he said.

"I believe that with effective rehabilitation, there is hope for change among criminals," he said.

In separate interviews, local and police officials of Caloocan, Malabon and Navotas said they agree with a justice department opinion that the anti-drug campaign might have a stronger impact if court decisions imposing the penalty of death were carried out.

"It should not matter whether they are small- or big-time, no matter how much the amount of drugs were seized from them, as long as their case enters the qualification of drug pushing, they should be sent to death row," said Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco.

"We should put the fear of death into those drug suspects, they have done so much damage," Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo and Malabon City Mayor Amado Vicencio said in Filipino.

Valenzuela City Representatives Magi Gunigundo Jr. and Sherwin Gatchalian said the intensified efforts against drug offenders should be accompanied by stricter penalties. *With a report from Tina Santos and Tarra Quismundo*

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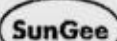
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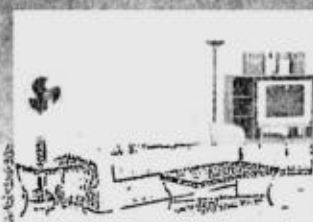
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'Sin wants GMA to run'

From page A1

run, and that she did not want to be distracted by partisan politics.

Bunye expressed thanks for Sin's "nice words." He told reporters: "We're gratified that the cardinal values the work the President has done to the extent of encouraging her to run."

"Encouragement" was how the Archdiocese of Manila described Sin's remark to the President's husband.

A statement released by the archdiocese's media office said Sin's exhortation for Ms Macapagal to run was "a light-hearted comment to the First Gentleman said in the course of an informal conversation over a mid-morning merienda."

"The comment was an encouragement in accordance with the cardinal's statement on June 5 that 'the essence of democracy is that people are given a wide range of intelligent choices of candidates to electoral positions' ... [but] an encouragement does not mean endorsement," it said.

The statement also said Sin "does not endorse political candidates."

In his June 5 statement, the cardinal said "good people, those who are honest, sincere and committed to serve the country, should be encouraged to run for public office."

He added: "I encourage qualified people. In my heart, I know that the President might not be the only good candidate for the position; there can be others."

That statement was made in reaction to an INQUIRER report last month, written on the basis of remarks made by a highly placed source in Malacañang, that Sin and world leaders including US President George W. Bush had supposedly urged Ms Macapagal to go back on her earlier declaration that she would not run in 2004.

'Quite firm'

Arroyo told AP that it was the cardinal "who opened the subject, not me."

He said that despite being a "declared non-candidate," his wife ranked fourth in a recent

survey of possible candidates, and added that she could overtake the three top contenders.

"If she declares her intention to run, that [lead by the other candidates over her] would mean nothing," he said.

Businessman Antonio Cabangon Chua, the newly appointed ambassador to Laos who was present at Sin's meeting with Arroyo, said the cardinal was "quite firm in his insistence" that the President run in 2004.

"The First Gentleman was about to take his leave when the cardinal made the statement," Cabangon Chua said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

"I'd say the old man really believes in the President," he added.

According to Cabangon Chua, three other persons heard Sin's remarks to Arroyo. He named them as his chief of staff Benjie Ramos, Fr. Aris Sison, and another person whose name he could not remember.

The statement issued by Arroyo's office provided the names

of two other people: Cabangon Chua's photographer Bibo Benida and Malacañang photographer Nonilon Reyes.

"The witnesses said Sin even expressed satisfaction over the increase in the popularity ratings of the President and of the scheduled visit of US President George W. Bush to Manila in October," the statement said.

Sison, parish priest of the Sta. Maria della Strada parish in La Vista, Quezon City, where the First Couple hears Mass, said Sin's encouragement was "very clear."

But he said he was not sure that Sin used the word "insist."

"It was a very light conversation, very brief ... but it was very clear that the cardinal was encouraging GMA to run," Sison told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He recalled that Arroyo told Sin in response: "I will tell Gloria about this."

Sin's prophecies

Arroyo and his party arrived around 9:30 a.m. yesterday and handed two checks representing the P1-million donation to the ail-

ing 74-year-old cardinal.

Sison, who used to head the archdiocese of Manila's mass media office, said they did not stay very long at the Villa San Miguel and only had a snack with Sin.

Arroyo told AP that the cardinal was in "good spirits" during their brief meeting.

He said Sin's "prophecies" had come true in the past.

He recalled that during the turbulent days in late 2000 marked by then President Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial, the cardinal told his wife, then the Vice President: "You better prepare already your inauguration speech because within a short time you're going to be president."

Subsequently, on Jan. 20, 2001, Ms Macapagal was swept to the presidency by People Power II.

In Malacañang, Bunye described the Office of the First Gentleman's statement on the cardinal's remarks as a mere "narration of facts" that was not meant to add to the chorus for the President to change her mind and seek election in 2004.

"I cannot read the mind of the First Gentleman, but I believe it is more to satisfy the curiosity of the Malacañang Press Corps," Bunye said.

Bunye noted that there were "some credible persons" present at the meeting to validate the cardinal's remarks.

"We have no doubt that this conversation took place, and that the cardinal said these encouraging words," he said. "We know the cardinal just doesn't give statements without thinking about them."

Sought for comment on Arroyo's donation to the Church, Senate President Franklin Drilon said there was nothing wrong with it.

"I assume these are private funds ... If so, there is no violation," Drilon told reporters, reminding them that the President's husband was not a public official.

Drilon said he himself had contributed to the Church, like when his mother asked him to help in repairing the church in their hometown. *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Christine Avendaño*

Erap sees FPJ running in '04 with Gringo

From page A1

would support Lacson, who served as his national police chief.

"The three of us (Estrada, Poe and Cojuangco) will raise his hands," he said, claiming that he had the power to make the three rally behind a common opposition candidate.

He said the same situation would apply should Cojuangco turn out to be their candidate.

Asked how he could do this, Estrada replied: "Magkaibigan naman kami (We're all friends)."

He said the opposition is convinced there "should only be one opposition candidate" for president.

He admitted that a month back, Poe was not keen on running for the presidency because "he's a bit worried about his (lack of) experience" in public administration.

"But I told him there's no school for presidents ... So long as



JOSEPH ESTRADA



FERNANDO POE JR.



GREGORIO HONASAN

you get competent people around," he said, adding that Poe is a "wide reader."

"I admire the guy. He never asked me for anything while I

was in office," he said, adding that Poe did not recommend anyone, even to a janitor's position, while he was in power.

Should Poe run, Estrada said he

wants opposition Sen. Gringo Honasan to be the vice presidential candidate, because of what he called Honasan's base of support in Metro Manila and the Bicol Region.

"Among all these people (prospective vice presidential candidates), Honasan is not only intelligent, he has the heart for the people. He is articulate," he said. To top it all, Honasan is "pogi (good-looking)," said the former movie star.

If Lacson runs, Estrada prefers to see administration Sen. Noli de Castro as the opposition's vice presidential candidate, noting that De Castro was not actually with the administration party.

"He's with ABS-CBN. He even ran as guest candidate of the Puwersa ng Masa," he said.

If De Castro cannot be paired with Lacson, he said his third choice is Sen. Juan Flavier. Flavier is also Estrada's choice as Cojuangco's running mate.

Although Estrada claims closeness to Cojuangco, the chair of sequestered San Miguel Corp. and founder of the Nationalist Peo-

ple's Coalition, he said they have not seen each other in two years. The only time he talked to him, Estrada said, was when he greeted the businessman when Cojuangco celebrated his birthday in the United States recently.

Estrada said he doubted the Macapagal administration had already entered into a political deal with the NPC.

"He's a businessman," he said, alluding to the need for Cojuangco not to fight the administration. The NPC, the second largest party in Congress, is a member of the ruling coalition.

What about Estrada's previously announced plan to run against President Macapagal? Estrada said this will happen only if Ms Macapagal runs.

"I'll run kung si Gloria tatakbo (if Gloria runs), one on one, walang ibang kandidato (no other candidates)," he said.

'Let the courts decide on my citizenship'

From page A1

certificate? ... I believe in it," Ang told newsmen.

He emphasized that he "acted in good faith" when he failed to elect Filipino citizenship at the age of 21 in 1963.

Mauricio, who filed a petition with the Supreme Court on June 2 to cite Ang for indirect contempt, asserted in a footnote of his pleading that because Ang's father, Jose, was Chinese and because Ang did not elect Filipino citizenship, he remained a Chinese national.

Not an issue

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said Ang's nationality was never an issue during his stint as the President's personal publicist.

Bunye noted that Ang has already resigned as adviser or consultant of the President. Asked whether Ms Macapagal still sought Ang's counsel, Bunye replied: "He is still a good friend."

He added: "Perhaps (Ang) can answer for himself if there are charges leveled against him and we know that he is capable of explaining the situation and defending himself." Bunye wondered aloud why the issue was being raised at this point.

When asked by a reporter to name names, Ang merely quoted the famous saying: "Absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Ang had earlier tangled with the law firm identified closely with Ms Macapagal, the influential Villaraza, Angarico Law Office—the Carpio, Villaraza and Cruz Law Office before two of its partners were appointed to key government positions.

He wrote front-page articles that railed against the allegorical dog, "Viaje," named after "via-jeng Hapon" (colloquial Filipino

for someone who has a finger in every pie) and his "kennel."

The articles were widely viewed as referring to lawyer Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza and his law office. Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonio Carpio and Chief Presidential Legal Adviser Avelino Cruz were once partners in the firm.

Ang also reminded his critics that "there's such a thing as karma" and, for good measure, "what goes up must come down." While he did not identify his detractors, he also said the President was not involved, was "out of the picture."

The other day, Ang told the INQUIRER: "My job was to tell the President the truth, the hard facts. In the process of discharging my duties, people were hurt. That explains all these charges."

Deportation request

Mauricio, who also contributes to a legal aid program on dBBS, the radio station of the GMA network, yesterday asked the Bureau of Immigration (BI) to deport Ang.

In a letter to Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, he urged that the BI begin deportation proceedings against Ang.

Noting that yesterday's INQUIRER story was based on his petition and that a BI board of special inquiry was looking into the accusations against Ang, Mauricio said the BI investigation should result in Ang's deportation.

"In view of the seriousness of the matter, and in view of the apparent admissions of Ang with respect to his citizenship—he admitted being the son of a Chinese father and a Filipino mother at a time when the country was under the 1935 Constitution—I believe that the proceedings of your bureau on the matter should be with the end in view of deporting Ang as soon as

DOJ to probe Ang citizenship

From page A1

documents and what the Bureau of Immigration has on him," Gutierrez said.

"Then that's the time that we will be stating our opinion or conclusion on his citizenship as to whether he violated Philippine laws," she added.

Gutierrez said the DOJ investigation would also touch on Ang's ownership of The Manila Times, since the 1987 Constitution provides that Philippine mass media be wholly Filipino-owned.

possible," Mauricio said.

"May I therefore ask that deportation proceedings against Ang be now commenced by the BI," he added.

But at his news conference, Ang asked rhetorically whether Mauricio and his associates accepted government documents at face value.

The bureau did start its probe into Ang's citizenship yesterday. According to acting Immigration Commissioner Daniel Cueto, an initial check showed that Ang has been using a Philippine passport in his travels.

He added, however, that they were still trying to look for additional documents.

"I'm still verifying with the Alien Registration Division if there is basis (for the allegation that Ang is an alien) ... if he has an Alien Certificate of Registration, if he has one, he must have been an alien," he said, speaking in Filipino.

The results of their verification, he said, might be available on Monday yet, as BI men still

had to sift through voluminous documents.

Cebu interview

In an interview with Cebu City's radio dYLA yesterday, Ang tagged people close to the President as the ones responsible for the black propaganda against him, including questions raised about his citizenship.

Ang did not name names, but he said his detractors were "corrupt people" who got mad because he had "exposed" their dirty deeds to the President.

But Ang also declined to specify the corrupt acts allegedly committed by the people close to the President that he had brought to her attention.

During the interview, he was asked if it was possible that the opposition camp was behind the black propaganda.

"Unfortunately not. Hindi opposition, eh (Not the opposition). Unfortunately, mga kakampi ko dati (my critics used to be my al-

lies)," Ang said.

When asked again if these people were close to the President, Ang responded: "Some people are close to her."

On his citizenship, Ang stressed that he never thought of himself as anything but a Filipino because his birth certificate said so.

Ang also said that there was no reason for him to clarify his citizenship since he already talked to Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, and

the latter was of the position that he was a Filipino citizen by virtue of his having voted in several elections.

"The mere act alone of participating in the electoral process is a manifestation of your (citizenship)," Ang said.

Ang said those who questioned his citizenship should file a case against him. *With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau; Gil Cabacungan, Martin Marfil*

GMA names Dante ...

From page A1

surprise visit to Central Police District Station 7 in Camp Panopio in Quezon City.

The JBC met last June 13 and whittled a list of 11 recommendees to five nominees. Under the Constitution, the JBC is the sole government agency that screens and recommends judicial appointees to the President.

The other nominees were SC Court Administrator Presbitero Velasco, University of the Philippines College of Law Dean Raul Pangalangan, Sandiganbayan Fourth Division chair Justice Gregory Ong and Court of Appeals Justice Ruben Reyes.

Tinga is dean of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines College of Law and managing partner of Tinga & Corvera Law Firm.

Tinga has been in the law profession since 1961. He worked with various law firms until he established his own Tinga & Associates in 1984. At the same time, he served as a senior partner in the Pimentel, Cuenco, Fuentes and Tinga Law Office. He also served

as director, counsel and corporate secretary to several corporations both publicly listed and privately held. In 1988, he became the dean of the University of the East College of Law and a faculty member of the university's College of Business Administration.

He was born in Taguig, Rizal (now a part of Metro Manila), in 1939. He obtained his Bachelor of Laws degree from the University of the East in 1960, magna cum laude, and ranked number one in his class. He pursued his Master of Laws at the University of California in Berkeley.

As representative of the lone district of Taguig-Pateros, he was chair of the House committees on energy and corporations and franchises. He was also the author of the Oil Deregulation Law.

The first six Macapagal appointees to the high court were Antonio Carpio, Romeo Callejo, Alicia Austria-Martinez, Conchita Morales, Renato Corona and Adolfo Azcuna. One more SC justice will retire this year: Senior Associate Justice Josue Bellosillo, on Nov. 13.

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TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ROW

The law is on our side, mayors claim

By Edson Tandoc Jr. and Leila Salaverria

NOT EVEN Malacañang's stand against them nor the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's threat to prosecute them could stop Metro Manila mayors from taking over traffic management in the metropolis.

"We have the law on our side, they (MMDA officials) don't," Metro Manila Mayors' League spokesperson Peewee Trinidad said, referring to the mayors' plan

to take over traffic management from the MMDA.

Earlier, MMDA lawyer Emmanuel de Castro said the mayors could be charged with usurpation of MMDA's official functions if they pushed through with the takeover.

The mayors had maintained that traffic management belonged to local government units, which have the power to enact traffic rules, a mandate the MMDA does not have.

In a council meeting on June

26, Fernando and the mayors ended weeks of debate by deciding to turn over traffic management from the MMDA to the respective local government units.

But the following day, Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the MMDA still had control over traffic management, citing a Department of Justice opinion.

Trinidad had said the mayors would ask Malacañang to reconsider its stand.

Asked to comment on De Cas-

tro's statement that the DOJ opinion had the effect of law, Trinidad, also a lawyer, said De Castro "must be kidding."

"It is just an opinion, not a court decision," he said.

As the mayors try to resolve the traffic management issue with the Metro Manila agency, the MMDA chair has urged motorists to take it easy while driving in heavy traffic.

He said that an uptight driver tends to break more traffic rules, making the traffic situation

worse.

"Agitated drivers are likely to commit road offenses, since they get tense, thinking there is no way out of the gridlock they may find themselves in," Fernando said.

In such cases, drivers would do anything, even break traffic rules, to get out of the bottleneck, he said.

Fernando pointed out that more traffic violators would result in worse traffic conditions. He advised motorists and commuters with regular routes to

give themselves enough travel time. He said he had noticed that some commuters would give themselves only an hour to reach their destinations even if they needed two hours of travel time.

"Sure enough, they would reach their destinations late and blame the traffic for it," Fernando said. "But if they allotted two hours for their travel ... they wouldn't be late."

He lamented that traffic congestion had become a convenient excuse for people to be late.

Adult VCDs make GMA's blood boil

By Alcuin Papa

PHILIPPINE National Police personnel manning the Cubao Police Station got a taste of President Macapagal-Arroyo's temper yesterday afternoon when she made a surprise visit and found pirated adult video compact discs inside.

The Chief Executive dropped by the station at around 3 p.m. after coming from Camp Aguinaldo for a press conference.

At the Cubao police station located inside PNP hospital compound at Camp Panopio, the President was led to the office of Officer-in-Charge Supt. Efren Manuel Sta. Ines.

However, Sta. Ines turned pale when Macapagal-Arroyo inspected the TV rack inside the office and found pirated local and foreign "triple X" VCDs.

Curious, the President picked up one of the compact discs and found that it was titled "Anal Queen."

"Terrible," the President was heard as exclaiming as she inspected the VCD.

She then launched a lecture addressed to Sta. Ines and his men, who claimed that the VCDs were "evidence" from their anti-piracy drive.

"Are you sure you don't watch these?" she asked Sta. Ines.

The President stressed that policemen must have a strong "moral foundation" for them to serve the people.

Macapagal-Arroyo also lamented the high crime rate in the Cubao area, which is known as a haven for armed robbers, drug pushers and cell phone snatchers.

METROBRIEFS

Victim takes last gulp

A 43-YEAR-OLD man had his last gulp of gin Thursday night after he was stabbed to death by an unidentified assailant in Quezon City. Ernesto Decio, of 1717 Fely St., Barangay San Agustin, QC, died of multiple stab wounds in the body. Central Police District investigators said Decio was drinking with some of his buddies near his house at about 7:30 p.m. when the incident occurred. He was reportedly emptying the contents of a glass of liquor when the suspect suddenly appeared and stabbed him repeatedly to the surprise of his companions.

Alcuin Papa

Underwear stolen

BURGLARS broke into a cosmetics and undergarments store in Makati City and ran off with P40,000 and merchandise. PO2 Ricky Mel Corpuz said at least three suspects broke the padlock to enter the Sara Lee direct selling store along J.P. Rizal Street, Barangay Poblacion, Thursday night or Friday before dawn. According to Corpuz, a vault containing the P40,000 was missing. He said various merchandise were also taken but employees were still determining whether clothes, cosmetics and women's underwear were among those missing.

Leila B. Salaverria

Rivals eyed in executions

THE DIRECTOR of the Central Police District Office believes that rival drug syndicates are behind the recent spate of "vigilante" killings of suspected drug dealers in Quezon City. Chief Supt. Napoleon Castro said the killings were probably due to a turf war as he ordered CPD Criminal Investigation Unit head Supt. Raul Medina to immediately wrap up the investigation into the killings. He tried to quell suspicion that the police themselves had a hand in the summary executions. On Wednesday morning, the body of three alleged drug dealers, a man and two women, were found in Barangay Culiat. A cardboard sign warning drug pushers of their illegal trade was found with the bodies and was signed by "Vigilantes Inc. QC Chapter."

Alcuin Papa

Sick man ends all

"TELL my father farewell." These were the last words of Nomer Flores before he hurled himself out the window of his room at the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City at 4:30 a.m. yesterday. Flores, 28, of 19 Holy Spirit Drive, Barangay Holy Spirit, QC, had been confined since June 26 for heart and lung problems. Investigators believe that Flores was no longer able to bear the hardships of his ailment.

Alcuin Papa



IN BETWEEN fits of temper, President Macapagal-Arroyo bursts out laughing as soon as she hears the excuses of Supt. Efren Manuel Sta. Ines, concerning the presence of lewd video compact discs at the office of the Cubao station commander. She then gives him a stern lecture on the need for lawmen to have a good moral foundation. EDWIN BACASMAS

Vendor killed in Baclaran faceoff

POON Baceron yesterday was killed by a stray shot when sidewalk vendors tried to face off gun-toting members of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority who were conducting street-clearing operations in Baclaran, police said.

Baceron, 35, a vendor and resident of Roxas Boulevard, Baclaran, Parañaque City, died of a gunshot wound in the chest at about 5 p.m. yesterday, according to a police report.

MMDA truck driver Alex Loma, 25, was also injured in the clash.

Police said an MMDA demolition team surprised vendors in front of the Baclaran Church on Roxas Boulevard

at about 3 p.m.

When the MMDA men started to remove the makeshift stalls on the sidewalks, the vendors resisted and began hurling rocks and bottles.

Loma, who was inside the MMDA truck, got hurt when the vendors pelted the vehicle with rocks.

In an attempt to stop the commotion, a few MMDA men fired warning shots, the police report said.

But the vendors continued to throw debris at the demolition team.

Baceron's brother Candidato told the police that the bullet that killed Baceron came from the gun of an MMDA team member.

Rex, another vendor who

witnessed the incident, told the INQUIRER he heard more than ten successive gunshots during the commotion.

He said Baceron, who had just arrived in Manila on Thursday, was sitting on the other side of the road when he was hit by the stray.

The incident caused a massive traffic jam on Roxas Boulevard.

Frightened passengers got off the buses and jeepneys and ran away from the area after hearing the gunshots.

Baceron was taken to the San Juan De Dios Hospital in Pasay City where doctors pronounced him dead, police said.

Loma was taken to the Philippine General Hospital for treatment. Edson Tandoc Jr.

Fake reporter caught soliciting cash in Pasay

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

FRANCISCO Noel, 59, was arrested in Pasay City on Thursday for allegedly soliciting money, wine and favors from local officials, while claiming that he worked for a newspaper.

Noel, of Redera Street, Pasay City, reportedly had introduced himself as a reporter of the Pilipinas Bulletin, a community paper circulating in southern Metro Manila.

For two months, he allegedly made the rounds of offices of Pasay councilors in city hall.

On Thursday, Councilor Reynaldo Salvador discovered that Noel had long been dismissed from the Pilipinas Bulletin.



Noel reportedly also introduced himself to other Pasay City Hall employees as a reporter for IBC 13.

I am not anti-Muslim

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



TO SUKARNO D. Tanggol, professor at the Mindanao State University and former ambassador to Kuwait, who wrote a letter in the Opinion page: I am not biased against Muslims. I am biased against people who commit abusive acts, be they Muslim or Christian.

If your perception is I'm anti-Muslim, that's your problem.

You say that you would "rather eat pork than swallow (my) venomous words." Then go ahead, eat pork. As for me, I find it unhealthy to eat pork.

Yes, Professor, I'm capable of objective learning even at the "pig's level" which, I think, is also at your level.

Like you, I happen to be also from Mindanao so I know the root causes of the problem: poverty and ignorance.

Muslim leaders in Mindanao want their subjects to be in perpetual ignorance and poverty so they can hold them by their balls. You're one of the lucky Muslims who are educated.

When I was a boy studying at the Camp Keithley Elementary School in then Dansalan City (now Marawi), I witnessed the bias of the Muslim majority in the area against the Christian minority.

Ask a typical uneducated Muslim why he hates a non-Muslim and he'll surely tell you it's because the non-Muslim Filipinos sided with the Spaniards.

I don't blame the poor and ignorant Muslims for that kind of attitude. I blame Muslim leaders who are educat-

ed like you for not changing that kind of attitude among your fellow Muslims.

In other words, Professor, you promote anti-Muslim bias among non-Muslim Filipinos because of your bias towards non-Muslim. It's your "us and them" attitude.

The Abu Sayyaf in Basilan and Sulu would have been annihilated a long time ago if it didn't have support from the Muslim population.

To the Muslim majority in Basilan and Sulu, the Abu Sayyafs are SOBs but they are "your" SOBs.

Controversial Manila Times publisher Dante Ang's detractors say he is an alien because his father was Chinese and he didn't elect Filipino citizenship when he came of age.

They're being technical about the whole thing.

Ang is as much a Filipino as the other guy born of Filipino parents.

In fact, he's more Filipino than some of us. He speaks and writes better Tagalog than most Filipinos.

Ang, who was born in the country of a Chinese father and Filipino

mother, most probably forgot to apply for Filipino citizenship because he was too busy. An oversight on his part.

But he has been performing a duty that many Filipino citizens don't even do: vote during the election.

So, what's all the fuss about Dante Ang's citizenship?

Justice Undersecretary Mercedes Gutierrez is right: The government's war on drugs would have a stronger impact if the death penalty is lifted.

Let's not be swayed by bleeding hearts and the meddlesome Catholic Church that looks after the welfare of drug pushers and traffickers more than their victims.

The war on drugs will only be won if there is political will.

One of the good things about the late unlamented martial law regime of Ferdinand Marcos was that it kept drug trafficking in check.

After the Chinese drug lord Lim Seng was executed in public, the country did not have a drug problem for a long time.

If there were mass executions of prisoners convicted of drug trafficking, the country would have a minimal drug problem.

Most of the Chinese prisoners at the National Penitentiary who were convicted of drug trafficking still control the drug trade in the country.

How? Through cellular phones which the previous director of the Bu-

reau of Corrections, Ricardo Macala, allowed to be smuggled into the maximum security compound of the NBP.

The cellphones are the link of the Chinese drug lords inside prison to their peons outside.

Poor Roberto Lastimoso! Everybody knew he was being sacked from the Land Transportation Office except him.

They should have informed him first that he was being replaced as LTO chief before the news came out.

This is not saying he doesn't deserve to be fired because that is the prerogative of the President. He should have been given the courtesy of knowing about it first.

Incidentally, "lastimoso" is Spanish word for pitiful man.

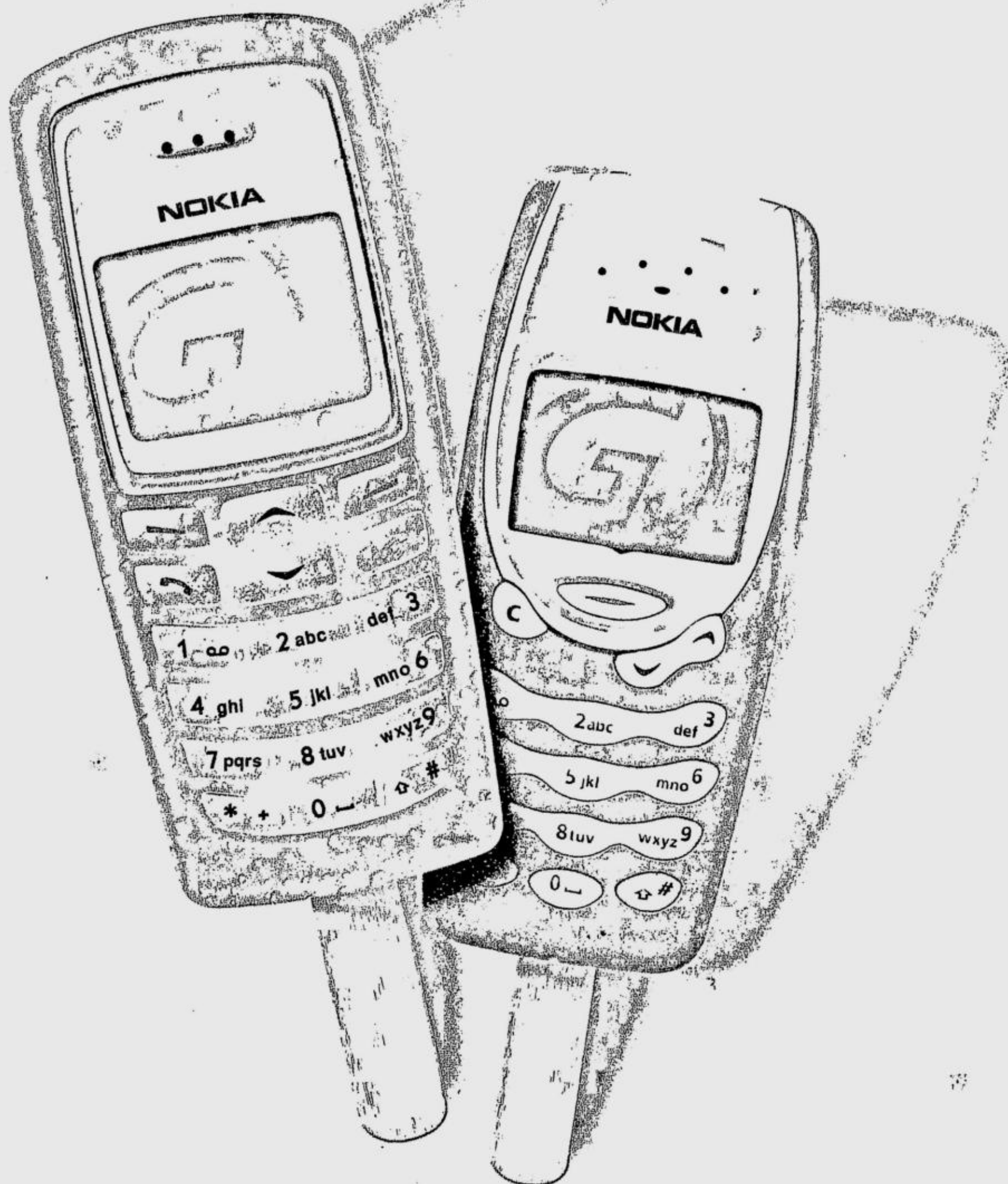
I've finished reading the book, "In the Presence of My Enemies" by American missionary Gracia Burnham, a former kidnap victim.

Burnham and her husband, Martin, were held by the Abu Sayyaf for more than one year in Basilan until her rescue by the military in Zamboanga del Norte. Martin and another hostage were killed in the rescue.

Ms Burnham pictured Filipino soldiers as inept, corrupt and lethargic compared to the Abu Sayyaf. The bandit group toyed around with the military in the jungles of Basilan, according to Burnham's account of her one-year ordeal.

Kawawa naman ang Pilipinas! But I think we deserve the chastisement so we would wake up.

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SPORTS

POC alarmed by new Viet disease outbreak

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee has expressed concern over the outbreak of a new disease in Vietnam, which is scheduled to host the Southeast Asian Games on Dec. 5 to 13 in the cities of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh.

The Japanese encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease that attacks the nervous system and characterized by high fever, has been reported to have originated in Vietnam and Guangdong, China.

A report from the Internet said seven residents of Hanoi have already died from the disease.

Celso Dayrit said he would ask the

SEA Games organizing committee for a complete situation report regarding the new outbreak since the country is expected to send more than 700 athletes and officials to Vietnam.

The POC chief said he does not want to put the RP delegation at risk, although he said he was hoping the epidemic would eventually be contained by the time the SEA

Games is held.

There are 422 RP athletes who have qualified to compete in the SEAG so far, with the officials expected to number about 200.

Two months ago, Dayrit skipped a meeting in Vietnam because of the SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) scare, which also caused many sporting events in the Asian region to be cancelled this year.

Vietnam has since been declared free of SARS by the World Health Organization.

"I would like to get some information about that (Japanese encephalitis) so we'll know what to do if ever," said Dayrit, noting that the SEAG organizers

have yet to make an official statement regarding the new disease.

However, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said in a radio interview that the disease is not as deadly as SARS since it can be treated or even be prevented through vaccination.

Just the same, Dayrit said he will not take chances considering the amount of time, effort and money the country has been spending for the SEA Games, which the Philippines will host in 2005.

The SEAG Federation is set to convene once again in November to finalize the names of athletes competing as well as brief the participating nations on how the Games will be conducted, Dayrit said.

Palace yet to release P40M for RP delegation

THE FIRST Gentleman has promised P10 million but it's going to be President Arroyo who will take care of the budget for the country's actual participation in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games.

Though the Philippine Sports Commission has already announced that it may spend P40 million for the athletes, coaches and officials going to Ho Chi

Minh City and Hanoi, chair Eric Buhan said funding for international competitions like the SEA Games usually come in the form of "augmentation fund" from Malacañang.

"That's why we are prudent in the selection of athletes," said Buhan. "It's not as if we have the P40 million right now in our hands. We still have to ask

for it from President Arroyo."

Through Buhan, the President had assured full support for all the athletes chosen by the Philippine Olympic Committee for the SEAG.

Mike Arroyo also promised POC president Celso Dayrit an additional P10 million from his own pocket to boost the SEAG budget during the

Olympic Day run last Sunday.

Dayrit said sending a delegate to Vietnam would cost P70,000. The amount includes expenses for plane fare, hotel accommodations, allowances, uniforms and equipment.

Under this estimate, the country would spend only P35 million for a delegation of 500 athletes.

Marc Anthony Reyes

WHAT'S INSIDE



■ Chamat dampens Lining's hopes /A23



■ Tañamor leads lean, mean RP squad /A26

■ Bad bunker shot pulls down Jenny /A26



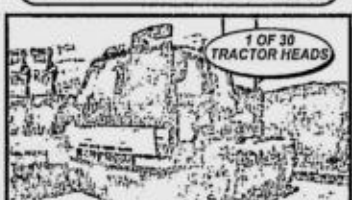
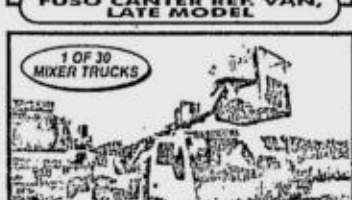
Wimbledon final pits Williams sisters/A24

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UPHR Altas mow down SSC Stags

GAMES MONDAY (Rizal Coliseum)
11:30 p.m.—San Beda vs JRU (Jrs/srs)
3 p.m.—Mapua vs UPHR (srs/srs)

By June Navarro

UNIVERSITY of Perpetual Help-Rizal showed its title potential by blasting defending champion San Sebastian College, 72-65, yesterday in the 79th NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Rookie Khriel Misa and Dom Javier again directed the plays while skipper Marcel Cuenco asserted himself inside the paint as the Altas posted a second straight win after beating College of St. Benilde in the opener last week.

Javier and Cuenco top-scored with 22 points apiece while Misa, a 5-foot-8 playmaker from Olivarez College, had 11.

Philippine Christian University nipped College of St. Benilde, 69-68, in the other senior encounter. PCU leveled its card to 1-1 while St. Benilde dropped to 0-2.

The Altas smothered the big men of the Stags no end, particularly the 6-foot-7 Pep Moore, who was held scoreless.

"We doubled up on Moore whenever he touched the ball. We gave them the outside shots just to prevent them from scoring inside," said UPHR coach Bai Cristobal.

The former deputy of San Sebastian coach Turo Valen-

zona during the Stags' dynastic rule in the 90s said it was the first time in three years that the Altas had beaten the defending champs.

Stag Leomar Najorda, last year's Finals MVP, also got bottled up by the aggressive defense of the Altas, scoring only eight points in an almost no-relief game.

"My players really wanted to win. They worked very hard in practice and it showed against San Sebastian," said Cristobal.

The Stags, who led three-fourths of the way before Moore's tantrums, tied Mapua, Letran, San Beda and Jose Rizal University with identical 1-1 records.

stymied by the double-teaming Altas, Moore could do nothing more than to disappoint the San Sebastian gallery.

Moore finally lost his cool in the final minute and he was slapped a technical for intentionally shoving Gerald Botin under the basket.

Christopher Baluyot scored 18 points and Victor Maneclang, a former Mapua Cardinal, had 13 for the Stags.

PERPETUAL 72—Javier 22, Cuenco 22, Misa 11, Barnson 8, Santos 3, Botin 2, Quiazon 2, Balboa 2, Joe O, Tayer 0.

SSC-R 65—Baluyot 18, Maneclang 13, Vicente 10, Najorda 8, Uy 6, Gonzales 6, Rebuya 3, Legarde 1, Aguilar 0, Moore 0.

Quarters: 13-20, 34-42, 57-56, 72-65



ASI Taulava hugs Jimmy Alapag after a give-and-go play in the first period of the game last night.

AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

T'Chargers turn back Hotdogs

GAMES TOMORROW (Araneta Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Ginebra vs Sta. Lucia (Asian Invitionals qualifying)
6:30 p.m.—Talk N' Text vs Coca-Cola (Game 3, Finals)

By June Navarro

EDDIE Laure got back in peak form and led Shell to a convincing 82-73 win over Purefoods last night at the start of the PBA Mabuhay Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The 6-foot-3 Laure showed no sign of the ankle injury he sustained in the All-Filipino eliminations, drilling in a team-high 17 points as the Turbochargers kicked off their bid for an Asian Invitionals seat on a bright note.

Shell and Purefoods, along with Barangay Ginebra, Sta. Lucia Realty and Alaska, are vying for the final and last slot in the invitionals set to start at the end of the month.

These squads aim for the right to join qualifiers Red Bull, San Miguel Beer, FedEx, Talk N' Text and Coca-Cola in the second conference invitionals where three foreign teams and the RP men's squad will also see action.

"It's a short tournament. That's why the team which is in peak form will most likely qualify," said Shell coach Perry Ronquillo.

No playoff game will take place in the event of a tie after the single-round invitionals qualifying, forcing teams to go for a sweep instead.

In case of a tie at the top of the standings, it will be settled via the PBA quotient system.

Scores:

SHELL 82—Laure 17, De la Cruz 15, Singson 14, Calagulo 10, Bacani 8, Tubid 6, Bajar 6, Jackson 4, Hrabak 2, Canlas 1, Marzan 0.

PUREFOODS 73—Castillo 23, Santos 16, Seigle 15, Raymundo 8, Demape 6, Mesina 3, Evangelista 2, Echavez 0, Mamaril 0, Patrimonio 0, Yee 0.

Quarters: 20-16, 47-30, 67-62, 82-73.

\$13M windfall for James

CLEVELAND—Eighteen-year-old high school prodigy LeBron James added a few million dollars to his bursting bank account on Thursday by agreeing to a three-year \$12.96-million contract with the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The amount falls well short of the \$90 million endorsement deal he signed with Nike earlier this

year but is the maximum allowed for rookies under the NBA's collective bargaining agreement.

The Cavaliers, who made James the top pick in the NBA draft a week ago, hold the option for a fourth season at \$5.8 million.

James averaged 31.6 points and 9.6 rebounds a game in the high school leagues. *Reuters*



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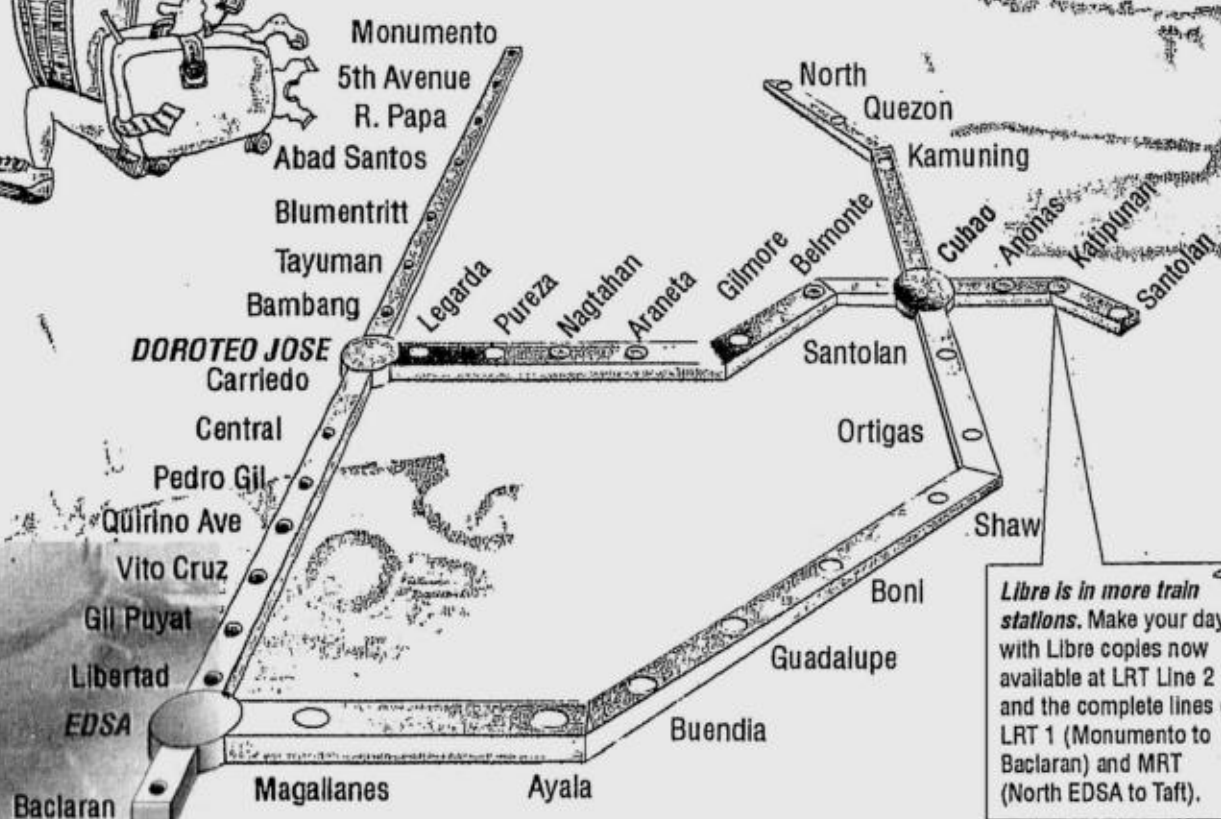
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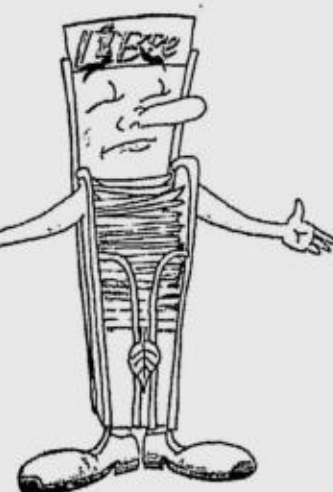


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Mr. Action Man

IF THERE is one businessman whose passion to support sports the unique way is legend, that's Bert Lina. Unique in the sense that he would come up with an idea from out of the blue and, after only a brief pause, he'd follow it up with the words, "Let's do it now if not immediately."

The guy thinks and acts fast almost at the same time.

The first time I met Bert Lina some years ago, I thought I met the reincarnation of Galileo. He had ideas so out of this world on the surface but, on second thought, they would seem to be all sound.

Back the first time I met him, he was telling me of flying planes between Zamboanga and GenSan, or Davao and GenSan, on a commercial basis.

"These are areas of commerce and businessmen should be able to reach their destinations as quick as possible either to close business deals or open new businesses," he said.

Before I knew it, Bert Lina had small planes commuting in those major Mindanao cities.

That's when I started calling him MAM—Mr. Action Man.

I met Bert Lina maybe only five times the last five years or so. Four of those times happened on the golf course. The other time was in Brunei, during the 1999 SEA Games; he was then the manager of the Philippine basketball team.

"I am into basketball as much as I am also into golf," Bert Lina said to me then.

His FedEx-backed basketball team beat Thailand for the 1999 SEA Games title. I was covering the event and I had joked before the championship game that we could never lose to Thailand because, "if Thailand has a King, the Philippines has an Alas."

Our basketball team then had Louie Alas, the Letran mentor, for a coach.

Since that momentous victory, Bert Lina has never left basketball. He immersed himself into it all the more. In fact, he and Lito Alvarez, the youthful president and COO of FedEx, are also now in the PBA. FedEx has a PBA team and at the same time remains a major cog in the national basketball team. FedEx presently bankrolls the RP Youth basketball squad, with Alvarez, a PBA governor, spending not only good money but also much of his waking hours to oversee the team's well being. The team will soon compete on the international front.

Both Bert and Lito are avid golfers and are passionate supporters of disciplines other than basketball. Just last summer, they staged the Tour ng Pilipinas, a revival of the multi-stage cycling marathon.

It is that cycling revival that revved up Bert Lina's fertile mind when I met him anew at Sta. Elena on Thursday, during Rico Brizuela's Airlift Cargo golf tournament.

The last time I saw him before Thursday was years ago, just days after he narrowly missed winning a major seat in Laguna in the last national elections.

"Howdy, buddy," said Bert. "Been quite a while since we last saw each other."

He was now looking swell. The creases in his face caused by the rigorous, sleepless campaigns that had all been smoothened out.

Before I could finish congratulating him for a job well done in the last Tour ng Pilipinas cycling marathon, he came up with yet another novel idea: A Tour of Pangasinan.

"I know you would have been a successful cyclist had you not elected to become a journalist," he said. "You are from Pangasinan, the true home of great cyclists."

Before I could say thank you, he said: "How about me staging a Tour of Pangasinan in honor of your great cycling-crazy province? And to spice up the event, let's assemble all the former Tour of Luzon champions from Pangasinan and honor them during the awarding ceremonies. I'll give them a little surprise. What do you think?"

What can I say?

Calling on Jess Garcia. Start the pencil pushing then come to Manila and Bert Lina will give you your final marching orders.

"Can we do it this October? I am dying to have it staged soonest," said Bert, fixing his patented FedEx buri cowboy hat, before hitting his first tee shot for the day.

The 50-or-something Bert owns the popular Air21. And I asked him before he walked towards his ball for his second shot: "Why Air21?"

"Because I was fired from my job on a June 21," he said. "That was in 1979. I used my separation pay of P45,000 to start my business."

Air21 is now one of the country's biggest cargo/delivery business entities. And that's because Mr. Action Man, barely over 5 feet in height, loves to move with giant strides.

And fast, too.

FASTBREAK. Respected sportscaster Ed Picson starts his every-Saturday program on dwlZ 882 kilohertz today from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Expect another intelligent radio show only the likes of an Ed Picson is capable of doing. Ed P joins broadcasting giants like Rey Langit and Ramon Tulfo in the powerful dwlZ station owned by Tony Cabangon Chua.

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza



MARCUS Chamat shows the form that beat Antonio Lining.

EDGAR MONTANA

Chamat dims Lining's hopes

STANDINGS: RP (W L)—Reyes 3-0; Bustamante 1-2; Kiamco 1-2; Lining 1-3
EUROPE—Immonen 3-0; Souquet 2-1; Feijen 1-2; Chamat 1-3

By Dennis U. Eora

MARCUS Chamat of Sweden dampened the hopes of Filipino veteran Antonio Lining with a 7-2 victory last night in the On Cue 1st RP-Europe nine-ball billiards tournament at the Loop Entertainment Center at the Don Eugenio Lopez Building in Quezon City.

Hardly displaying the form that gave him a 7-2 victory over Dutchman Niels Feijen last Thursday, Lining struggled against Chamat, who played confidently all throughout.

As a result, Lining dropped to a 1-3 win-loss record, his fate now in the hands of compatriots Django Bustamante and Warren Kiamco, who are sporting identical 1-2 slates.

Bustamante will meet Germany's Ralf Souquet, while Lining tackles Feijen later in the night.

Efren "Bata" Reyes and Finland's Mika Immonen are still playing at press time. Both have already qualified for the semifinals.

For Lining to make the semis via the backdoor, the US Open veteran must pray that Bustamante and Kiamco lose their respective matches and hope that the quotient will go in his favor.

Castañares fights tough Venezuelan

By Salven Lagumbay

PHILIPPINE junior welterweight champion Ala Boy Din-do Castañares takes on his unbeaten counterpart from Venezuela, Richard "Maravilla" Reina, today in a 10-round clash in Tokyo's Korakuen Hall.

The rapid-punching Castañares, totting a 12-1-1 win-loss-draw record with 9 KO's, was stopped by OPBF king Masakazu Satake last April 26, and needs to win to regain his status as a top prospect in his division.

Reina, a native of San Felix, Bolivar, Venezuela, is reportedly being groomed as the next Latin star by Japanese promoter Akihiko Honda. Reina is unbeaten in 10 fights, winning 9 by knockout.

Trained by the world-renowned Rafael Liendo and managed by Manuel Pereira, the hard-punching Reina knocked out Omar Silva in three rounds last May 17.

Reina has not gone past six rounds in his career and in his last eight fights, Reina has logged only a total of 12 rounds.

Castañares, known as "Diesel" because of his staying power, remains confident of beating Reina, who will be fighting for the first time outside of Venezuela. He has gone 10 rounds twice and 12 rounds once in his young pro career under trainer Edito "Ala" Villamor.

Cebu-based Pedro "Cobrita" Malco sees action against Japanese Shoot Mifune in the undercard.

Ang World Class na Tsinelas...



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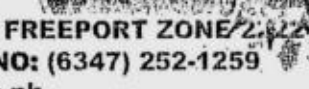
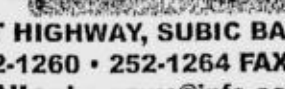
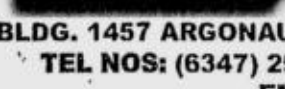
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Hot Tiger ties record with 63

Year's lowest round good for 1-shot lead

LEMONT, Illinois—Here's one way to quiet all that talk about a slump.

Tiger Woods tied a course and tournament record with a 9-under 63 Thursday, taking a one-stroke lead at the 100th Western Open. It was his lowest round of the year, and his best since he shot a 63 in the final round of the Disney Golf Classic last October.

Woods is the 13th player to shoot 63 at the Western—a tournament he's won twice—and the first since 2000.

Talk that Woods was in slump was building even before the US Open. After winning three of his first four events this year, he wasn't a factor at the Masters and wasn't in contention at his next two tournaments.

But it was a disappointing weekend at the Open, also played in the Chicago area, that really got the chatter going. He struggled with a balky putter all week, and never made the charge fans expected. For the first time in four years, he didn't own a title from one of the four major championships.

Woods insisted Wednesday that his game was fine—and he more than backed that up Thursday. He hit 10 of 14 fairways, and 15 of 18 greens. And that putter that's given him so much trouble? He needed only 27 putts for the day.

He was one stroke ahead of Vance Veazey and two in front of David Toms. Defending champion Jerry Kelly had a 66.

Starting on the back nine, Woods gave notice early that he meant business, making a 24-footer for eagle on the par-5 11th. He pointed at the hole as the ball dropped into the cup, and the crowd erupted into cheers of "Eagle! Eagle!"

Woods grinned, bumping fists with caddie Steve Williams.

But a few minutes later, those old frustrations were back. His 2-foot par putt on the par-3 12th banged off the back edge of the cup and caromed out. Woods tapped in for a bogey, and was clearly disgusted as he walked off the green,

muttering and smacking his hat against a tree.

He came right back with a birdie on 13, and added birdies on 15 and 16. A rain delay of 1 hour and 41 minutes interrupted his round after teeing off on the 18th hole, and Woods looked a little rusty when play resumed.

He hit a bad second shot, tossing his club as the ball landed on the fringe of the green. He chipped on, and things had the potential to get really ugly when his ball rolled all the way across the green and onto the fringe on the other side.

But he made a spectacular chip-in to save par, pumping his fist and smiling when the ball rolled in.

And with the sun starting to set, Woods took off, making three straight birdies on his back nine. He made birdie putts of 10, 4 and 10 feet to get to 8-under.

He capped his round with one more birdie, this one from less than 2 feet on the par-5 9th.

As dazzling as his round was, it could have been even more impressive. He missed four birdie putts within 10 feet, as well as a 5-footer for par.

Masters champion Mike Weir looked as if he was going to make a charge with making four straight birdies after the rain delay. But his drive on 18 landed in a triangle of bunkers behind some trees on the right side of the fairway and he made a double-bogey to finish at 67.

Toms was up early for a morning tee time, fitting considering how little sleep he's gotten this week. After winning the St. Jude Classic last weekend, he left Memphis, Tenn., on Sunday night and flew to Muscle Shoals, Ala., for a charity event Monday.

The event was rained out after nine holes, and he flew to Chicago for a PGA Tour policy board meeting Monday night. The meeting continued Tuesday morning, and he had to find some time to practice in the afternoon. And Wednesday was the pro-am. AP



VENUS Williams stretches to return a shot from Belgium's Kim Clijsters, during their Women's Singles semi final match on the Center Court at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, Thursday. Williams won the match, 4-6, 6-3, 6-1, and will meet her sister Serena in the finals. AP

'My mom said: Just pray and calm yourself down. If you're going to play, play. If not, don't do it'

Grosjean puts end to 'Henmania'

WIMBLEDON, England—The last Englishman won Wimbledon 67 years ago.

It won't happen this year.

Sebastien Grosjean advanced to his first Wimbledon semifinal Thursday by beating Briton Tim Henman 7-6 (8), 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 in a match completed over two days because of rain and darkness.

The 25-year-old Frenchman will meet the big-serving Mark Philippoussis in Friday's semifinal.

Henman, a four-time Wimbledon semifinalist, was playing in his seventh quarterfinals and drew large support from thousands of fans watching

the match on a large-screen TV on Henman Hill behind Court No. 1.

The match was restarted late Thursday with Henman leading 2-1 in the fourth set.

The Frenchman, not bothered by the pro-Henman Center Court crowd, broke in the seventh game to take a 4-3 lead. Henman had two break points on Grosjean's next service game, but both were saved.

Henman faced match point at 5-3 on his serve, but Grosjean netted a forehand return. He didn't have any answers in the next game, losing to love and giving away the match with a backhand volley into the net.

The 13th-seeded Grosjean lifted both hands above his head in triumph, gestured toward his fans and gave a thumbs-up to the crowd.

At the net, the two patted each other's shoulders and the pair received a standing ovation when they walked off the court.

"I played pretty good against Tim—I wasn't in good shape after losing the second set, but the rain helped me a lot and I came back much better," Grosjean said.

"It was easier for me (overnight) because I was 2-1 up in sets, but it's never easy to come back the day after especially against Tim here in Wimbledon.

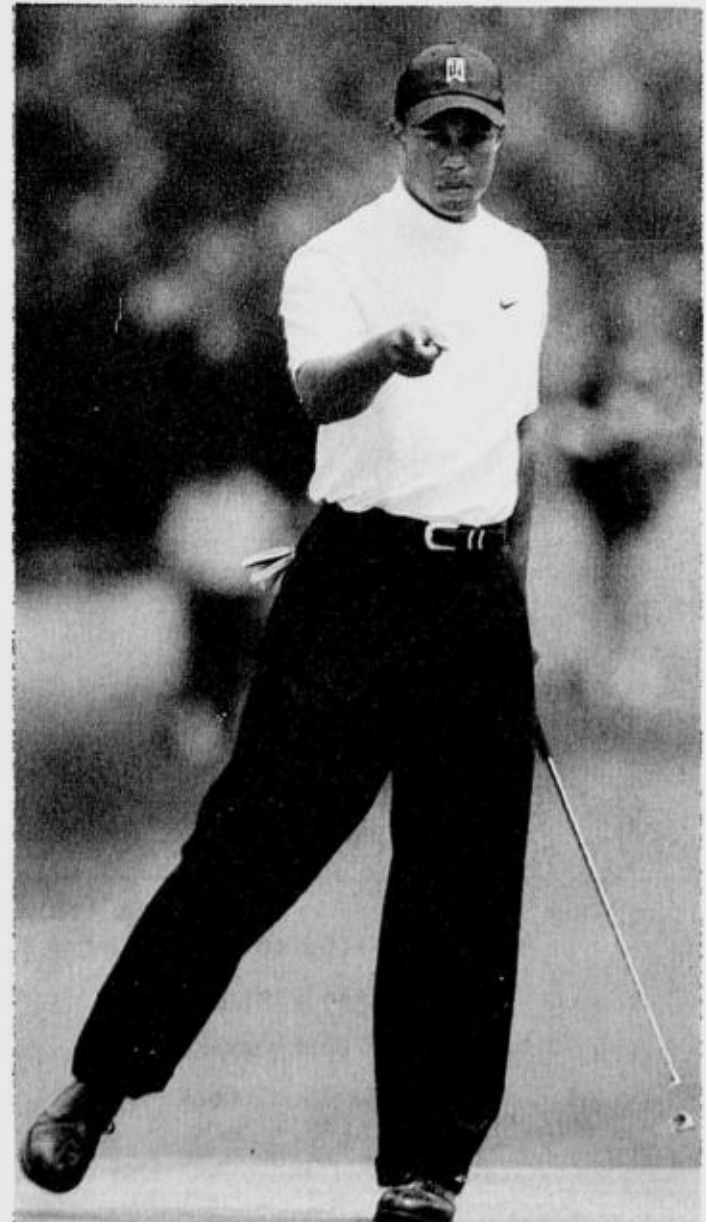
"But I started pretty missed a few shots and then to finish the match."

Wednesday, the match was ed three times totaling nearly before the matches resumed evening, but dampness again halted play after a few

Grosjean said he sustained injury to his backside late

"It was difficult for me, cially to my forehand," he

Grosjean will have a centimeter) height deficit plays the 6-foot-4 (1.93 m) pousis, who made the quarterfinals in 1998, '99



WOODS makes an eagle putt on the 11th during the first round of the Western Open. AP

Sweeter this time around for P

LONDON—Australian big-hitter Mark Philippoussis on Thursday won through to his first ever Wimbledon semifinal and admitted that success was now "sweeter" after persistent knee injuries kept him out of the game for almost two whole seasons.

Philippoussis, who got through to the last four with an epic five-set victory over Germany's Alexander Popp, said it had been a "long trip" back from three bouts of knee surgery in 14 months.

"It feels good," he told re-

porters after completing a dramatic 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 8-6 triumph over Popp in a match which spanned over two days because of persistent rain.

"It has been so long. After those three surgeries it has been a long trip and a long ride," said the 26-year-old Australian, singling out 10 weeks spent in a wheelchair following the last surgery as a particularly dark time.

"It was tough for me mentally more than anything," said Philippoussis, calling the period "very,

very depressing." "It was a big wake-up call and definitely got me pumped and got me the hunger back that I had lost.

"When you are down and out and find a way back everything feels so much sweeter." The beefy Australian faces France's Sebastien Grosjean in both players' first Wimbledon semifinals, but only after clawing back a two-set deficit against Popp.

A pounding battle of the giants had initially seen 1.93m (6'4") Philippoussis unable to find a way past his 2.01m (6'7") oppo-

nent on Wednesday.

But after a lengthy hiatus for rain, Philippoussis found his form and took the match to a fifth set before further downpours halted the match overnight.

"After the rain delay I came back and I was a different person," he admitted.

When play resumed at 2-2 in the final set on Thursday, Philippoussis was still not out of trouble, and had to battle his way through a string of break points on his own serve at 5-5 and then 6-6.

Wimbledon act in final

WIMBLEDON, England—Venus Williams wined with each serve and doubled over to clutch her stomach after stretching for shots. She was in so she barely could lift her racket bag after the

accumb to a Kim Clijsters' s, Williams t and won 4-6, y to set up a n final against nding champi-

na turned a re-champion Jus- a mismatch, enin-Hardenne h Grand Slam o in the semifi-

in the same liest exit from he abdominal here flared up st Clijsters.

on champion was seen a sec- then came an t set.

Venus said. "I I was just so erena came in t and talked to s.

and calm your- o play, play. If r about half an rms with it."

om the trainer, er midsection. oints and lean- e, Venus twice e second set.

th times, kept nd somehow t 11 games to

that the third any further," d Venus said.

"I was really blessed that I was able to get those games quickly."

The start of play was held up 2½ hours on a day of big matches at the All England Club, and fans eventually saw action from all four men's quarterfinals.

In matches postponed by showers Wednesday, No. 5 Andy Roddick overwhelmed Jonas Bjorkman 6-4, 6-2, 6-4 to reach his second major semifinal of 2003, and No. 4 Roger Federer beat No. 8 Sjeng Schalken 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.

Both quarterfinals on the other side of the draw were suspended in progress Wednesday. When they resumed Thursday, No. 10 Tim Henman's bid to give Britain its first title in 67 years ended against No. 13 Sebastien Grosjean 7-6 (8), 3-6, 6-3, 6-4. Grosjean next gets unseeded Mark Philippoussis, who followed up his upset of Andre Agassi by using 34 aces to pull out a 4-6, 4-6, 6-3, 8-6 win over Alexander Popp.

None of the four remaining men owns a Grand Slam title, and all will be playing in the Wimbledon semifinals for the first time when they step on court Friday.

"It makes it a little bit intriguing, a little bit exciting maybe for outsiders, the prospect of a new Grand Slam champion," Roddick said. "I'm not satisfied yet. I want to keep going."

When the Williams sisters play Saturday, they will be facing each other in a major final for the sixth time. The family will gain its fourth Wimbledon trophy in a row.

Venus won the 2001 US Open final, the first between siblings at a major since 1884. But Serena won their next four Sis-

ter Slam finals, from last year's French Open through this year's Australian Open. "I'm excited to be in the final again of a Grand Slam," said Serena, who will keep her No. 1 ranking. "I was able to realize at the French that you can't always make it to



SERENA Williams reacts after scoring a point over Justine Henin-Hardenne in their semifinal encounter.

the final. So now that I'm back, it's definitely exciting. It's just another step, another day to keep fighting."

She was speaking before Venus took to Center Court for what turned out to be the day's highest drama, with two top players trading sizzling strokes as the light faded.

Smaller rackets, please

LONDON—A host of former tennis greats, including multiple Wimbledon champions John McEnroe and Martina Navratilova, have called on the sport's governing body to reduce the size of racket heads to make the game more exciting.

"Our sport has become unbalanced and one-dimensional," the 35 former players and journalists said in a letter to International Tennis Federation president Francesco Ricci Bitti.

"Present racket technology makes it possible for less skilled players who are large, strong and fast to hit anyone off the court on any given day." They said ultra-light, high-power modern rackets, with big "sweet spots" that let strong players load the ball with spin, had made it difficult for players to play serve and volley.

The letter proposed gradually reducing the maximum allowed width of rackets from 12.5 inches (31.75 cm) to nine inches.

The ITF did not immediately respond to the suggestion, but at least one large, strong and fast player had little time for the idea—at least in the women's game, which is still less of a slugfest than the men's.

"I think right now, the women's game is super-exciting and I think we're on a different level from everyone else," Serena Williams said when asked about the suggestion. "I think we shouldn't change anything right now in the women's game."



GROSJEAN

REUTERS

Philippoussis

ut after those scares, the man wn as Scud eventually broke p's serve again with some fer- us passing shots.

he last set was a battle," ppoussis said.

he Australian saw off world ber one Andre Agassi in the th round and has been tipped oughout the tournament as a l bet to secure what would be

rst Grand Slam in an up-and- n career.

Popp victory would have nt as an upset, although nter player is seeded.

The German, also 26, has never risen above 74th in the world after a career also blighted by terrible injury woes.

In 2001 he was struck down by glandular fever, a viral infection which leaves victims chronically tired, leaving him barely able even to practise.

After recovering from the illness, Popp suffered a further setback when he incurred a wrist injury at the US Open last summer which kept him out until just two months before Wimbledon.



PHILIPPOUSSIS

AFP

SPORTS NOODLE

Bong Barrameda

Mike test

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.

o True / o False: Michael Jordan—like Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Shaquille O'Neal—has been to the Philippines.

2 > 5 Pts.

What is Michael's second first name?

o Jeffrey
o Joseph

3 > 7 Pts.

During the 1982 NCAA championship game, Jordan earned fame by making a last-second jump shot to seal a 63-62 victory for the University of North Carolina against which team?

o Duke University
o Indiana State University
o Georgetown University

4 > 10 Pts.

"I think it's God disguised as Michael Jordan." Who said this after His Airness scored 63 points against him and his team?

o Charles Barkley
o Magic Johnson
o Larry Bird

5 > 20 Pts.

What jersey number did Michael wear in his first NBA game after coming out of retirement in 1995?

o No. 23
o No. 32
o No. 45
o No. 54

6 > 25 Pts.

During the 1984 NBA draft, this club made one of the most regrettable choices in sports history. They had the No. 2 pick after the Houston Rockets took Hakeem Olajuwon.

They went with Sam Bowie, leaving Michael Jordan for the Chicago Bulls. Which team?

o Cleveland Cavaliers
o Denver Nuggets
o Portland Trailblazers
o Washington Bullets

7 > 30 Pts.

For good luck, what did Michael always wear what under his uniform while playing for the Chicago Bulls and the Washington Wizards?



LANCE Armstrong (center) rides with his US Postal teammates.

AFP

Tight race seen in 100th French tour

PARIS—Lance Armstrong has confirmed recent reports that he could be facing an increased challenge to his bid to become a Tour de France legend by winning his fifth consecutive yellow jersey this year.

Describing this year's century race, which kicks off with a 6.5-kilometer prologue in Paris on Saturday, as 'tight', the 31-year-old American however appeared confident as he faced a packed press room two days before he begins the first stretch of the 3,427km course in his ninth participation in the race.

"I think this year it will be a tighter race," said the US Postal team leader who has pummeled his rivals into submission since capping his 1998 victory over cancer with his first Tour win a year later.

"I'm not getting any younger and there's a few wildcards out there who could upset things." Armstrong's major rivals appear to be Italy's recent Giro d'Italia winner Gilberto Simoni of the Saeco team and Spaniard Joseba Beloki of ONCE, who has finished three times on the Tour's podium since 2000.

Indeed the tough-talking Texan singled out Simoni as the man who could pose a threat to his ambitions—if the little Italian climber can last the pace after his recent travails on his home Tour.

"Simoni had a good Tour of Italy and he can climb well," conceded Armstrong. "He could change the face of the race but it depends on how he recovered from the Giro and whether he still has the strength." This year's race is a special affair, the 90th edition sticking as close as logistics will allow to the route of the first edition in 1903 which rode clockwise through France's major cities.

If successful in his bid, Armstrong will join French riders Jacques Anquetil and Bernard Hinault, Belgian ace Eddy Merckx and Spain's Miguel Indurain on the Tour's exclusive five-time winner's list.

He would also equal Indurain's five-in-a-row benchmark (1991-1995) set in an era when few riders had the tools to challenge the big Spaniard.

For Armstrong, whose methodical approach to preparing for and racing cycling's big one

is not unlike that employed by 'Big Mig', it's a similar scenario.

While on paper he is facing a wider challenge this year, in reality it seems no-one can stop him in his tracks—even if Simoni is showing signs that he and his handy Saeco team could mix things up a bit.

Jan Ullrich, the 1997 winner and a four-time runner-up, is back from a ban for testing positive for amphetamines last year with his new Italian team Bianchi—but the chances of the 29-year-old German posing a real threat over three weeks of tough and tactical racing look slim.

Ullrich, who became a father for the first time in mid-week, has admitted that it would be a while before he could challenge Armstrong again.

"My hope is that this duel (with Armstrong) will happen again some day," he said.

"I doubt very much that it will happen this year because for that you have to have the perfect preparation. I don't have that, but I'd be very happy with a stage win." Simoni showed his bolder side last month, confidently launching a veiled challenge to Armstrong.

"Of course, I'll be there," Simoni said prior to the Giro's 17th stage when asked if he would double up by riding the Tour after the Giro.

"I think that on the Tour, Armstrong has never really been put to the test. And he should try and ride the Giro at least once," he added.

AFP

DEFENDING champion

Armstrong

waves at

his

teammates

before

departing

for a

training

session in

Moussy le

Vieux,

north of

Paris.

AFP





ROSALES lines up a putt on the 12th hole during round one of the US Women's Open Championship at Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club in North Ridge, Oregon. REUTERS

US OPEN ROUND 1

Bad bunker shot pulls down Jenny

By Jong Arcano

PORTLAND, Oregon — Already among the leaders with three holes to play, Jenny Rosales stumbled big-time on her way home Thursday (Friday in Manila) in the first round of the US Women's Open.

Rosales' bubble in the 58th edition of the prestigious event burst with one uncharacteristic booboo from the bunker, turning a potential championship contender into someone praying for a weekend slot after a three-over-par 74 in the opening round.

Rosales, 24, skulled a bunker shot on the 17th hole and threw away what she had worked so hard for at the Witch Hollow course of the Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club here.

She took a triple-bogey 7 on that hole after sending the ball flying past the camera tower and into the thick bushes way

below the green and finished in a big group in 45th place.

Rosales actually dropped five strokes on the last three holes counting her bogeys on the 16th and 18th where she flubbed two short par putts from no longer than three feet.

As Scotland's Mhairi McKay mastered the extremely difficult conditions with a five-under 66 to lead by three over defending champion Juli Inkster and three others, Rosales could have been no farther than the Top 10 had she just bogeyed the 17th.

"I couldn't believe my eyes when Jenny made that mistake from the trap," said her swing coach Bong Lopez. "Bunkering is actually one of the best parts of her game."

Until her horrible finish, J-Ro sparkled like the glitters on her all-black outfit, sinking five birdies on a six-hole stretch from the sixth, including a three-birdie run that lifted her ahead of the pack.

The high roughs put a premium on accuracy off the tee, sending the field struggling to get their pars. The pins that were mostly in the far deep corners of the greens made it an even more punishing

day for everybody.

The day was particularly tough for Fil-Am Dorothy Joy Delasin who soared to an eight-over 79 despite getting Clint Begay back on the bag.

Rosales, whose LPGA campaign is getting a major boost from the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the American Eye Center, was naturally disappointed with the bad finish but vowed to fight back.

"Just one bad score and that was it. There's another 18 holes to play tomorrow and I'll take it from there," she said.

On that costly bunker play: "I was planning to lob it and get it close to the pin, no luck."

Ironically, Jenny still got a break from what could have been a much worse scenario on the 17th. Her ball was plugged deep in the bushes and looked unplayable. But Jenny was given relief as the huge camera tower obstructed her line of play.

She plays in the afternoon group for the second round, expecting conditions that should be doubly tougher than on opening day.

Tañamor leads lean, mean RP squad

FIRST a bronze, then a silver. If the trend holds, the gold should come next for Harry Tañamor.

The talented Tañamor, the light fly bronze medalist in the 2001 Ireland World Championships and silver medalist in the 2002 Busan Asian Games, will head the five-man RP Revicon Team seeing action in the World Amateur Boxing Championships starting tomorrow up to July 13 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Completing the team to be coached by George Caliban and Nolino "Boy" Velasco are flyweight Violito Payla, bantam Arlan Lerio, feather Joegen Ladon and welter Florencio Ferrer.

Top Cuban and Russian boxers, including two-time Olympic gold medalist Oleg Saitov, are among 400 athletes competing in the championships set at Bangkok's Nimibutr Gymnasium.

The Russian contingent boasts of 23 boxers and is the biggest of the 64 countries entered.

Tañamor is a consistent medalist in international tournaments this year, bagging silver medals in the



TANAMOR (above) and Lerio are up against world-class fighters in Bangkok.



Lithuania and Spain international championships.

Payla captured the gold in the Finland tournament while Lerio, who went up in his weight classification, captured the gold in his comeback tournament in Lithuania.

Ledon will only be in his third international tournament and Ferrer will be in his fourth international stint

"Considering the toughness of the coming world championships, we at the Abap feel that this team will have a fair chance at a medal," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines (Abap) president and Federation of Asian Amateur Boxing (FAAB) secretary general Manny Lopez, who will be the delegation head.

"This team is a combination of veterans and newcomers who got the nod of the Abap coaching staff for their outstanding performance in past tournaments, local and international," added Lopez.

Completing the delegation, which is being supported by Pacific Heights, Accel and Philippine Sports Commission, is referee/judge Roger Fortaleza.

Saitov, who has won the Olympic gold medal twice in the 69-kilogram division, will be joined by fellow Russians Raimkul Malakhbekov, a two-time European champion in the 54-kilogram division, and 2001 World champion Evgeny Makarenko in the 81-kilogram division. Roy Luarda and AP

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ST. LOUIS Cardinals second baseman Bo Hart makes the throw to first to get San Francisco Giants' Scott Eyre out at first and complete a double play after San Francisco Giants' Yorvit Torrealba (8) was forced out at second in the ninth inning. AP



Braves Expos-ed

ATLANTA—Michael Barrett hit a two-run homer and Claudio Vargas won his third straight start to help the Montreal Expos stay unbeaten in Atlanta this season, downing the struggling Braves 5-4 in the National League Thursday.

The Expos moved within six games of the NL East-leading Braves with the win.

Atlanta, whose defensive strength in late innings has become suspect, has lost six of its last nine. The Braves are 16-19 against NL East opponents this season, including 0-

4 at home against the Expos.

Vargas (6-3) allowed three runs and eight hits in 7 1/3 innings and Julio Manon retired the final batter of the game for his first big league save.

In St. Louis, Edgar Renteria blasted a three-run homer to spark an eight-run second inning as the Cardinals cruised past the San Francisco Giants 9-5.

And in Philadelphia, Placido Polanco drove in three runs to propel the Phillies to a 12-2 rout of Chicago. Reuters

Grudge rematch

By Salven L. Lagumbay

THE country's top bantamweights—WBC International champion Roger Galicia and Philippine titlist Johnny "The Hitman" Lear—clash in a grudge rematch on August 8 at the Mandaluyong Gym.

The 12-round fight will be the main supporting event in a card dubbed "Bakbakan sa Mandaluyong" featuring the PABA flyweight championship bout pitting reigning titlist Rolly Lunas against Thai challenger Deeden Kengkarun.

International promoter Jun Sarreal said Mandaluyong City Mayor Benhur Abalos, an avid boxing fan, had personally requested for the Galicia-Lear rematch in his home turf.



ANSWERS

From page A25

1. False (Both Jabbar and O'Neal have been to Manila)
2. Jeffrey
3. Georgetown University
4. Larry Bird (Boston though beat Chicago in double-overtime)
5. No. 45 (The same number he wore for the Birmingham Barons baseball team and as a basketball player in junior high school)
6. Portland Trailblazers
7. His blue University of North Carolina shorts

SPORTSWATCH**Mountaineers accepting applicants**

THE UP Mountaineers is accepting applicants until July 12. The application is open to everyone. Accepted applicants will be given a three-month Basic Mountaineering Course, which includes physical fitness training and basic mountaineering skills. There will be an applicants' orientation on July 6, Sunday, 1 p.m. at the College of Science Auditorium, UP Diliman, Quezon City. Application fee is P500 for graduate students and professionals; P150 for students. For information, contact Kerwin Nicolas 0919-2789343 or Alpha Omega Culanag 0917-9838101.

Laurel, Potenciano seek victories

BUFFY Laurel and Ysabel Potenciano hope to carry on the legacy of Filipino car racing champions as they seek crucial wins today in the fifth leg of the 2003 Shell Karting Super Series at the Carmona Circuit Philippines. Buffy is showing signs of the genes of his grandfather Dodjie Laurel—a prominent Filipino racer who made waves in the international scene in the mid-'70s. He seeks another win to keep solo leadership in the Cadet 85 class against Team Cebu-CRG Racing's Paco Rodriguez, Brandon Angel, Kevin Katzer, Renodo Ebiara, Emil Cuyugan and Miggy Apacible in this series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Bridgestone, Nokia, Denso and Eastway Racing. Ysabel, a protégé of M&M Racing-MP Turbo, aims to follow the footsteps of her father, racing champ Mike Potenciano, as she dreams of becoming the country's first multi-titled female racer. She hopes to show the way against M&M Racing-MP Turbo teammates Mark Bumgarner and current leader Marty Aguilar in the Formula 125 Juniors division in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

UAAP focuses on Olympism

THE UAAP (University Athletic Association) of the Philippines will focus on the Spirit of Olympism on its 66th season starting July 12. "This season, the UAAP aims to help promote the spirit of Olympism right where the future of Philippine sports are to be rooted," said Jose Capistrano Jr., president of the UAAP's 66th season and host Ateneo's representative to the league board. Capistrano said that for the first time in league history, all 14 sports in the UAAP calendar would grab the spotlight during the noontime opening ceremonies at the Araneta Coliseum. Besides basketball, volleyball, chess, swimming, table tennis, athletics, tennis, fencing, taekwondo, men's baseball, women's softball, football, badminton and judo are also played in the UAAP. Mike Cojuangco-Jaworski, an Ateneo alumnus who bagged the equestrian gold medal in last year's Busan Asian Games, takes the podium as main guest.

**COJUANGCO-JAWORSKI**

PDI PHOTO

Belarmiño Ebdane Cup top gun

MULTI-TITLED Philippine National Police Supt. Benjamin Belarmiño topped the "2nd Chief PNP Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. Cup (All Steel) 2003," a shooting competition championship held recently at the Mandaua Shooters Club Firing Range in Mandaue, Cebu City. Metro Manila police chief Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco awarded the championship trophy to Belarmiño, who bested 250 shooters from different regions in the two-day event. Belarmiño, the PNP-Calabarzon area chief of Regional Operation and Planning Office Team and member of the national team to the 13th World Shoot in South Africa garnered 312.66 points, while Chief Inspector Mike Hernandez got 1st runner-up in Standard Division in the "Chief PNP Cup 2003." Last year, Belarmiño topped the Abelardo & Elias Miranda's Cup at the Pampanga Shooters Association firing range at Mainpils, San Fernando City, Pampanga; Nene Aguilar Shooting Competition in Las Piñas shooting range and the Mindanao leg of the Philippine Practical Shooting Association national championship in Davao City, Northern and Central Luzon Area IV Championship Practical Shooting Competition level III-IPSC competition dubbed "Battle of the Gun Clubs 2002," and 1st Chief PNP Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. Cup, 45th ISAP Anniversary Shooting Competition.

8 teams in Under-14 football

CABANATUAN CITY—The Nueva Ecija leg of the Red Ribbon Bakeshop Under-14 Football Festival have drawn eight teams at the Nueva Ecija National High School Field here. The contenders are Julia Ortiz Luis High School, San Isidro High School (A), Camp Tinio (B), Imelda Elementary School, San Isidro HS (B), San Isidro HA (C), Los Buricos and Camp Tinio (A). Julia Ortiz Luis HS, San Isidro HS (A), Camp Tinio (B) and Imelda Elementary School are bracketed in Group A while the four other teams are in Group B. Lots will be drawn to determine the schedule of games before the opening ceremony at 9 a.m., according to Jojo Rodriguez, Philippine Football Federation official and tournament director. The tourney is organized by PFF and sponsored by Red Ribbon Bakeshop. More than 200 teams are competing in the U-14 competition being played all over the country. Most of the provincial events had been completed but the National Capital Region has yet to hold its tourney.

Hattah-Hattah championship today

THE CHAMPIONSHIP round of the 283-entry "Hattah-Hattah 5-Cock Derby" will be held today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit, starting 1 p.m. The 121-flight program is sponsored by Casino Filipino-Parafaque, Thunderbird Enertone and Ninja Gamefowl Feeds. Host Rolly Ligon has put up a whopping guaranteed prize of P2.2 million. Meanwhile, Roligon presents another surefire crowd-drawer on July 26 (Saturday), the "Laban O Ligon 4-Cock Derby" with a guaranteed prize of P500,000, plus a big motorcycle for the fastest-kill champion. Entry fee is P6,600 and minimum bet is P4,400.

Big Fights entry fee P.2M

A SHOWDOWN among the country's top cockers organizations will ensue today at the "Big Fights sa Cavite 6-Cock One Day Derby" at the Cavite Coliseum. Members of UCAP and NCA are among the competitors in the more than 80 fights lined up starting at 5 p.m. Sponsors are Pagcor and Casino Filipino-Parafaque. Well-known cocker-sportsmen led by Sen. Ramon Revilla, former PBA commissioner Rudy Salud, Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Lito Orillaza and William Co of Rizal have joined forces to host this super derby which requires a prohibitive P220,000 entry fee. To make the event more exciting, participants will get P15,000 per win. For inquiries, contact Cavite Coliseum at 046-9709971 or 0918-5674921.

**BILLIARDS CHAMPS**

George Santiago and his 9-year-old son Santino topped the recent National Sports Grill Father and Child billiards tournament as part of its Father's Day celebration. From left are Bikki Reyes (NSG marketing assistant), George, Santino, Gina Rabino (NSG team captain) and Bev Valenzuela (NSG marketing assistant). NSG is located at the 3rd floor Greenbelt 1, Makati City. For reservations, call 752-5431 or log on to www.nsg.ph.

Defensor to probe chess complaints

By Dennis U. Eroa

LAWYER Mat Defensor, chair of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, yesterday promised to look into the complaints of Women International Masters Christine Rose Mariano and Joy Lomibao on alleged financial mismanagement by the association.

"Everything can be resolved through talking," Defensor told the SCOOP Forum at the Karmayan West Avenue Restaurant in Quezon City.

Aside from alleged manipulations of chess money, Mariano, a member of the Philippine Air Force, and Lomibao, reigning National Open titleholder, had also denounced alleged favoritism by the NCFP.

Mariano and Lomibao presented several documents to Defensor to back up their charges, including the allowance sheets for members of the national training pool which they claimed was inaccurate.

"The truth of the matter is this

**LOMIBAO**

is the first time that I saw those documents," said Defensor. "It's just sad that we're already guilty in the eyes of media."

Mariano said she is quite happy with Defensor's promise.

"At least, something is happening now. We thank the media for helping us in our fight," said Mariano. The duo had also asked Sen. Robert Barbers and Rep. Monico Puentevella for help.

"We're sportswomen and we know the importance of unity. We only want the best for chess and we want to return to training as soon as possible," added Mariano.

**MARIANO**

The two standouts have requested the NCFP for an accounting of expenses for the Bled, Slovenia and Istanbul, Turkey Olympiads and some sponsorship money.

Defensor came to the rescue of Eugene Torre, who has also been accused of misusing funds.

"Eugene will never steal money. He even sold some personal belongings in order to represent and give honor to the country," Defensor said.

Torre, Asia's first Grandmaster, explained that he turned over to the NCFP the P854,000 granted by the Presidential Management Staff (PMS) three years ago for

the 2000 Istanbul Olympiad.

"Upon receiving the financial assistance, I immediately endorsed the money to the NCFP. The NCFP not me, should liquidate the amount," Torre said, adding it was the PMS that deleted the request of players for allowance.

"I am a player myself. Why should I delight in seeing that no money reached the players," Torre said.

Meanwhile, Torre credited dedication, teamwork and desire for the country's triumph in the recent Asian zonal where the Filipinos swept the first five places.

"We wanted to win the title badly. Everybody sacrificed just to give our teammates the chance to enter the World Championship. Thank God, we did not only win one but two slots," Torre said.

Former FIDE chief Florencio Campomanes, and members of the triumphant national team in the recent Vietnam Asian Zonals led by champion IM Ronald Dableo were also present at the session along with GMs Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor and IM Mark Paragua, who will join Dableo in next year's World Championship in London.

Muaythai champ Alumno leaves for Bangkok today

FILIPINO Asian muaythai champion Billy Alumno leaves for Bangkok today to defend the title he won in Singapore three years ago.

The 25-year-old Alumno will fight on July 25 against the contender from Japan. Around 15 countries have been invited by

the Thailand government to participate in the competition.

Aside from winning the gold medal in the AXN-organized

Asian Muaythai Championship in Singapore in 1999, Alumno has won several local and international awards.

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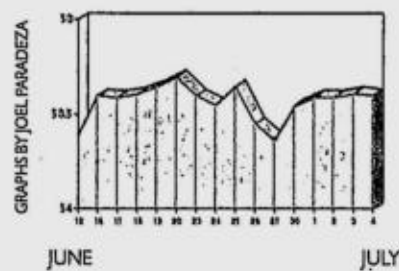
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BUSINESS

June inflation rate surges to 3.4%

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 53.40 = \$

As of 5 p.m., July 4, 2003

Y 118.14 = \$

As of 5 p.m., July 4, 2003

GOLD: \$351.00-351.50

per ounce Hong Kong, July 4, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down slightly



SHARE prices closed 0.15 percent lower yesterday on profit-taking after Thursday's sharp gains and the downturn on Wall Street overnight, dealers said.

They said weak local economic data added to the cautious tone but while the market is in a consolidation phase the underlying positive momentum remains intact.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 1.85 points to 1,264.27, having traded between 1,258.78 and 1,268.55.

"We expected this consolidation after the strong rally (on Thursday)," when the index closed at a 12-month high, said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

"Investors also took their cue from Wall Street," he said.

However, he said investors remained optimistic despite the release of figures showing that exports had fallen in May while inflation had exceeded government targets in June.

"That's why the weak economic data had not much impact on sentiment," Macapagal said.

Turnover was 1.05 billion shares worth P496.5 million after 410.55 million shares worth P611.28 million Thursday.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. fell P5 to P580 while Ayala Corp. dropped 5 centavos to P4.65. SM Prime Holdings slipped 10 centavos to P6.10.

Manila Electric Co. saw its "B" shares rise by 75 centavos to P17 while its "A" shares rose P1.25 to P11.75 as investors remain optimistic on the company resolving its debt problems.

AFP

By Michelle V. Remo

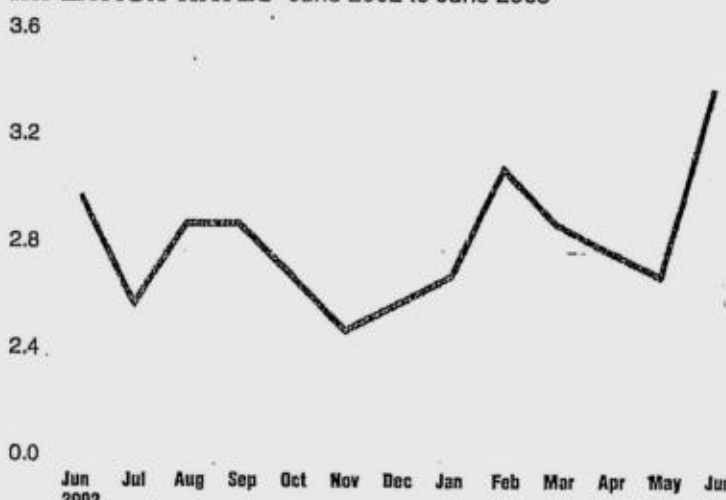
INFLATION rose unexpectedly in June to 3.4 percent, the highest for the year, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

Economists had expected inflation for June at 2.5 to 2.9 percent, or hardly changed from an annual increase in consumer prices of 2.7 percent for May.

The NSO cited the typhoons for the surge in prices of food, beverages and tobacco. Clothing was also costlier as parents got ready for the new school year in June. Fuel, light and water were likewise more expensive after Manila Electric Co., the biggest power distributor, raised rates.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, which had cited a benign inflation picture through 2004 as one of the main reasons for its decision to cut policy rates to 11-year lows on Wednesday to keep the economy on track toward a 4.2-5.2-percent growth this year, was unfazed.

INFLATION RATES June 2002 to June 2003



"I think there is no cause for concern here and this will not affect our policy stance," BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco said yesterday. "Food prices rose (in June) because of the typhoons. It's not something that we expect to continue on a regular basis."

The BSP official said the inflation rate of 3.4 percent in the 12

months to June was unlikely to be sustained in coming months and would not affect its easier monetary policy.

The central bank unexpectedly cut its overnight rates last Wednesday by a quarter of a percentage point to the lowest level in more than 11 years. It was the first adjustment since March 2002.

With inflation seen benign through 2004 and the government's budget deficit seemingly under control after three blowouts in 2002, the central bank said the rate cut was designed to keep the economy on track towards 4.2 to 5.2 percent growth this year.

Some analysts said more intense economic activity in the second half—as manufacturing perks up to meet higher demand from recovering overseas markets—may fuel price pressures.

"It (inflation) is going to go up to 4 percent by year's end, the reason being oil prices are slowly picking up," said Jose Vistan, an economist at AB Capital Securities Inc. "Another reason is the improvement in business confidence."

The government has set an inflation rate target of 4.5 to 5.5 percent this year after the 3.1 percent rise in prices in 2002.

But the Neda has set its own inflation forecast for the year at

JUNE/B2

Merchandise exports down 4% in May to \$2.8B

THE COUNTRY'S merchandise exports shrank by 4 percent to \$2.8 billion May from \$2.92 billion a year ago, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

Compared to the previous month's \$2.7 billion, however, exports in May was up slightly.

This was the country's weakest monthly export performance since a 6.3-percent year-on-year drop in February 2002.

Exports totalled \$14.01 billion in the five months to May, up 1.7

percent from \$13.78 billion in the same period of last year. The figures were not seasonally adjusted.

The government expects exports to grow by between 5 and 8 percent this year. Exports expanded 9 percent last year after a 15.5-percent contraction in 2001.

But 4Cast Ltd said the performance in May put that target at risk as demand from China and its territory Hong Kong failed to offset a slump in shipments to the

United States and Japan.

"We doubt the strong trend in demand from China and Hong Kong will persist on the back of SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome)," it said in a commentary.

"Seasonally we expect a pick-up in the second half, but the pace of sequential recovery is still looking a bit soft so I do not expect a substantial rebound," said Song Seng Wun, regional economist at G.K. Goh Securities

in Singapore.

The country's major exports include electronics, textiles and clothing, coconut oil, furniture and bananas.

Electronics shipments, which accounted for 64 percent of total exports during the month, fell 12.8 percent year-on-year.

Local analysts also said that sluggishness in the United States, Japan and other major markets is seen depressing export-powered growth in the Philippines.



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PSE to present 3 options on listing of bourse shares

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange will hold caucuses with 184 broker-shareholders to present three options on how to pursue its listing, the final step needed to complete its mandated demutualization.

In a memorandum to brokers yesterday, consultations were scheduled at the Ayala trading floor on July 15 and 16 while those who cannot attend either date can attend another caucus scheduled at the Tektite trading floor on July 17.

The three listing options to be presented to shareholders are:

- listing the entire PSE itself;

- splitting the PSE into two firms with the original PSE holding on to its assets while a new firm owning its exchange operations will be listed; or

- listing the PSE holding the exchange operations, after other assets have been "demerged" into a separate company.

Although the PSE has shed its mutual status by converting into a stock corporation in 2001, its shares are still held by member-brokers who received shares of stock for their seats.

The Securities and Exchange Commission has long been prodding the PSE to sell shares to the public, especially in view of a pro-

vision in the Securities and Regulation Code that slapped a 20-percent single-industry limit on shares ownership.

While the PSE had said it could pursue by August a listing by way of introduction—or the listing of shares without undertaking a public offering, bourse officials see the need to undertake some corporate restructuring to make its shares attractive to the public.

The PSE wants to find out which of the three options will maximize the value of PSE shares and assets as well as result in the cheapest tax liability.

Earlier, ABN Amro Asia Securities (Philippines) Inc. nominee

Gregorio Kilayko, who is also a PSE director and chair of the strategic development committee, said demerging the PSE's exchange operations and the central clearing house from another company owning the property assets and central depository could maximize values. He explained that shares of listed bourses worldwide were usually valued more by investors based on earnings potential rather than property assets.

As such, demerging the assets would not affect the PSE's share value while the demerged assets could still be used to earn extra income for shareholders, he said.

Philamlife buys Equitable insurance unit for P70M

By Elena R. Torrijos

EQUITABLE PCI Bank, the country's third biggest lender, yesterday signed an agreement to sell 95 percent of its stake in Equitable PCI Life Insurance Co. Inc. to Philippine American Life and General Insurance Co. for P70 million.

In a statement, Equitable PCI Bank disclosed that it also entered into and executed a bancassurance agreement with Philamlife.

Under the bancassurance agreement, Equitable PCI Bank would cross-sell insurance products of the life insurance unit through its network of 409 branches.

The bank would also allow the use of its branches as outlets for the presentation and sale of financial products.

Equitable PCI said that the sale of the 95-percent stake to Philamlife consisted of 14,250 shares. The P70-million price tag represented the book value of the common shares as of June 30.

Philamlife's purchase of the 95-percent stake in EPCI Life would be subject to approval by the Insurance Commission while the bancassurance agreement would need the nod of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Philamlife chair and chief ex-

ecutive Jose Cuisia Jr. said the bancassurance agreement with Equitable PCI Bank would be the only one it would make.

The insurance giant had earlier formed marketing alliances with other banks, specifically HSBC and Security Banking Corp.

Cuisia said that EPCI Life and Philamlife would come up with co-branded products that would be offered through Equitable PCI Bank's branches under the bancassurance agreement.

Regarding the profit contribution of bancassurance, Cuisia said: "It will take time. We would like to see it grow very rapidly."



CUISIA

Taiwanese firm raises stake in 7-Eleven operator in RP

TAIWAN'S retail giant Uni-President group has acquired an additional 6.19-percent stake in Philippine Seven Corp., the local operator of the 7-Eleven convenience store chain, bringing its total shareholdings to 56.59 percent.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Phil-Seven said President Chain Store (Labuan) Holdings Inc. purchased 14.68 million new shares of the company at P2.80 through a cross sale effected at the PSE last July 2.

PCS-Labuan, a company which is wholly owned by President Chain Store Corp. of Taiwan, first bought into Phil-Seven in 2000 with the purchase of a 50.4-percent block held by Filipino stockholders following the liberalization of the retail trade sector. The shares were then bought at P8.30 per share.

PCS-Labuan now holds 134.26 million out of the 237.25 million total issued shares of Phil-Seven.

Doris C. Dumlaog

INTEREST RATES

July 04, 2003-MART1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART1 4-Jul-03	MART1 3-Jul-03
1 Month	6.3107	6.2964
3 Months	6.4673	6.5173
6 Months	7.2232	7.4179
1 Year	7.9533	7.9333
2 Years	8.7467	8.7317
3 Years	9.665	9.6667
4 Years	10.0333	10.0783
5 Years	10.2633	10.275
7 Years	11.1417	11.1833
10 Years	11.45	11.4555
20 Years	12.0217	12.0267
25 Years	12.4	12.4183

SOURCE: MART1/BLOOMBERG



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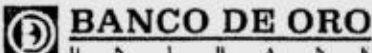
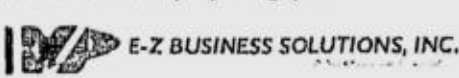
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June inflation surges to 3.4%

From page B1

3 to 3.5 percent, saying the 4.5- to 5.5-percent government projection, which factored in the impact of the shorter-than-expected Iraq war and the SARS scare, was already unlikely.

Prices of food, beverage and tobacco increased by 2.7 percent from a year ago, while cost of fuel, light and water rose 7.8 percent. Clothing prices also inched up 2.3 percent.

The inflation rate for food alone rose to 2.9 percent. Higher rates were seen in the prices of corn, one percent; cereal preparations, 4.6 percent; eggs, 0.8 percent; fish, 2.1 percent; and fruits and vegetables, 6.6 percent.

The increase in food prices, especially of vegetables and fruits, was mainly blamed on heavy rains and floods caused by typhoons Chedeng, Dodong and Egay, which resulted in the disruption of supply during the month.

The opening of classes was also partly seen as a cause for higher demand for meat, selected school supplies, medicines, medical and health goods, and clothing items.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE					
(As of July 4, 2003)					
STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	19	19.5	19	19.5	646,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48	48	47	47.5	279,800
China Banking Corp.	750	750	750	750	1,000
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33	33.5	33	33	121,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31	31	31	488,000
Philippine National Bank	24	25	24	25	109,500
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12	12.5	12	12.5	14,200
Security Bank Corp.	13	15	13	15	758,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	19	20	19	20	130,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	200,000
Filinvest Fund Inc.	3	3	3	3	3,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1515	1515	1515	1515	830
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1090	1100	1085	1100	3,300
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	19.5	20.25	19.5	19.75	80,500
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.72	0.74	1,550,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	645	665	645	660	57,400
Ipeople Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	500,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.045	0.045	1,700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	2,700,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	6,000
Philippine Tel. Corp.	0.42	0.44	0.42	0.44	6,250,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	580	585	575	580	173,740
Ivantage Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	20,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	303,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	10.25	11.75	10.25	11.75	2,970,600
Manila Electric Co. B	15.76	17	15.75	17	2,829,000
Petron Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.04	2.04	3,045,000
Salcom Power Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	5,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.44	1.44	100,000
Int'l Container Term 1 Sv	2.85	2.9	2.85	2.85	494,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	100,000
William, Gothong & Abott	2	2.1	2	2.1	11,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	180,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	22,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	25,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.75	17.75	17.75	17.75	627,200
RPM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	110,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	410,000
San Miguel Corp. A	53.5	54	53.5	54	80,200
San Miguel Corp. B	63.5	63.5	63	63.5	109,900
Universal Robina Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	8,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.235	0.25	0.235	0.235	640,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	70,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.4	0.4	0.38	0.38	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.7	4.7	4.65	4.65	7,685,000
Azelec Equity Ventures	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.42	320,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	3,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	20,000
APC Group Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	78,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.68	17,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	200,000
Bacnolan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	22,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.57	0.59	20,330,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	300,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.185	0.185	410,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	850,000
Fi-Estate Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.22	0.22	60,000
Global Holdings Corp.	13.25	14.5	13.25	14.5	2,672,600
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	100,000
Ionics Inc.	0.8	0.81	0.8	0.81	260,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	55,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.76	0.76	110,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	0.0925	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	10,200,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.33	370,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.17	0.19	0.16	0.165	1,700,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	130,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Euro-Med Lab. Phil. Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	8,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.62	16,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.055	0.055	0.055	0.055	200,000
Pryce Corp.	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	16	16	16	16	51,100
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	8,630,000
Mandragon Int'l Phils Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	340,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.41	0.41	220,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20	20.25	20	20.25	800,000
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.002	0.002	0.002	0.002	49,000,000
WGA - Preferred	6	6	6	6	22,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	7,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.2	1,561,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.23	0.25	110,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	0.23	290,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.24	0.225	0.23	5,240,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.26	7,060,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.08	1.08	6,679,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.16	2.2	2.14	2.18	680,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.165	0.165	0.155	0.155	420,000
Fi-Estate Land Inc.	0.22	0.245	0.22	0.23	4,150,000
Primex Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	51,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.2	1.2	2	2	381,000
SM Development Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	92,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.1	5,022,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	305,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	250,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0028	0.003	0.0028	0.003	28,000,000
Phillex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
OIL					
Interpet Res. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	164,000,000
The Philoil Corp. B	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Pacific	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	2,000,000
Simniphil Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.031	0.031	500,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	130,000

DISCLOSURES

BALABAC Resources and Holdings Co. Inc.'s new external auditor is SGV & Co.

ELECTED directors of Alcorn Gold Resources Corp. were Eduardo Hernandez, Leonardo Dayao, Lucio Co, Robert Cokeng, Ponciano Mathay Estelito Mendoza and Reyno Salom.

ELECTED independent directors of First-eBank Corp. were Meliton Salazar and Enrique Esteban.

ELECTED directors of Metro Alliance Holdings & Equities Corp. were Renato Magadia, Kenneth Gatchallan, Elvira Ting, Angel Umall, Lambert Mercado Jr., Rogello Garcia and Ricardo Veloso.

ROBINSONS Land Corp. announced the appointment of Teresita Vasay as treasurer of the company effective last July 1.

EBECOM Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on July 10, 2 p.m. at the Manila Golf Club, Makati City. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

CURRENCIES

July 4, 2003		Euro	Dollar	Peso
Country	Unit	Equivalent	Equivalent	Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.869943	1.00000	53.40700
Japan	Yen	0.007360	0.008460	0.451800
United Kingdom	Pound	1.451936	1.669000	89.136300
Hongkong	Dollar	0.111564	0.128243	6.849100
Switzerland	Franc	0.645024	0.741455	39.598900
Canada	Dollar	0.651107	0.748447	39.972300
Singapore	Dollar	0.496968	0.571265	30.509500
Australia	Dollar	0.593818	0.682594	36.455300
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.307665	2.652661	141.670700
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.231979	0.266660	14.241500
Brunei	Dollar	0.495553	0.569638	30.422700
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000106	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020872	0.023992	1.281300
UAE	Dirham	0.236854	0.272264	14.540800
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.149500	61.391300
Argentina	Peso	0.311250	0.357782	19.108100
Brazil	Real	0.307836	0.353887	18.898400
Denmark	Kroner	0.134462	0.154598	8.256600
India	Rupee	0.016789	0.021598	1.153500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.228963	0.263193	14.056300
Mexico	New Peso	0.083582	0.096089	5.131800
New Zealand	Dollar	0.518750	0.598303	31.846800
Norway	Kroner	0.125992	0.139080	7.427800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.015103	0.017361	0.927200
South Africa	Rand	0.115684	0.132979	7.102000
Korea	Won	0.000735	0.000845	0.045100
Sweden	Kroner	0.109167	0.125488	6.701900
Syria	Pound	0.020713	0.023810	1.271600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025326	0.029112	1.554800
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000545	0.000627	0.033500

SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2003

No need yet for Asean oil stockpile, says Petronas

LANGKAWI—Southeast Asia does not need to build costly oil stockpiles for now and will rely on its own energy support system in a crisis, Malaysian state oil company Petronas Nasional Bhd (Petronas) said on Thursday.

Japan has urged its oil-deficient neighbors to invest in emergency reserves, saying on Wednesday that the 10-member Association of South East Asian

Nations (Asean) should use Europe as model for cooperation to build vital reserves.

Petronas chief executive officer Hassan Marican said building reserves might prove too costly.

"It's an idea being raised but for now there is no need for stockpiling in Asean," he told a news conference on the sidelines of an energy ministers' meeting on the island of Langkawi, off Malaysia's

west coast.

"We already have a mechanism to support each other in times of need. Stockpiling is very costly and this needs to be addressed. We are not saying that it is not necessary but it is not necessary at this point in time." Asean groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Asia relies

on imported oil for more than two-thirds its daily needs of more than 21 million barrels. Up to 80 percent of the imported oil comes from the volatile Middle East.

Only Japan and South Korea, both heavily reliant on imported oil and gas, have built huge oil reserves way above the 90 days of consumption advised by the International Energy Agency.

A Malaysian minister told re-

porters Asean countries planned to review their Petroleum Security Agreement signed in 1986 and ratified in 1988.

"The Asean countries now feel there is a need to review and update the agreement in order to ensure security of oil supply in the region," said Energy, Communications and Multimedia Minister Leo Moggie.

"The drafting and review of the

new agreement needs to be speeded up and this should be presented for consideration at the next meeting in the Philippines next year." Asean states, keen to lessen their reliance on imported crude and to find alternatives in case of supply threats, signed a memorandum of understanding last year for a 4,500-km pipeline linking the region's gas resources to demand centers. *Reuters*

Taiwan's CPC beats Shell to \$8.7-B deal

TAIPEI—Taiwan's state-run Chinese Petroleum Corp. (CPC) won a coveted LNG supply contract on Friday for a lower-than-expected US\$8.7 billion by undercutting three rival consortia with links to foreign supermajors.

CPC, which owns the island's sole LNG terminal, underbid competitors, including Royal Dutch/Shell, to win the 25-year deal to supply state utility Taiwan Power Co.'s (Taipower) Tatan power plant with liquefied natural gas (LNG).

"The bid was awarded solely on price," said Taipower vice president Edward Chen, dismissing speculation that political considerations were involved.

CPC submitted the lowest bid at US\$298.2 billion (US\$8.7 billion), Chen said, while all bids came in under Taipower's ceiling price and were far less than the estimated US\$400 billion, based roughly on current prices of LNG.

Under the terms of the deal, CPC is required to start supplying the plant with LNG from Qatar's Ras Laffan II gas fields starting 2008, and must also build a receiving terminal.

Taipower said in a statement that it would be paying CPC US\$5.69 per cubic meter of LNG,

cheaper than the US\$8.33 it is currently paying.

Analysts said supply outpaced LNG consumption in Asia, although demand for the clean and efficient energy is on the rise, making it a buyer's market.

"There are many suppliers chasing for markets. So it's a good market environment for buyers of LNG like Taiwan," said Victor Shum of energy consultants Purvin & Gertz in Singapore.

Shum said Asian demand for natural gas was expected to nearly double to account for 15 percent of overall energy needs in 2015 from around 8 percent in 2000.

The three failed bidders were a Royal Dutch/Shell venture, Tung Ting Gas Corp.—which includes Mitsubishi Corp., Osaka Gas Co. Ltd. and Kansai Electric Power Co. Inc.—and United Resources Inc., a venture led by Kuo Yang Construction that had planned to source LNG from fields developed by BP Plc and Indonesia's Pertamina.

"Obviously we are disappointed, but we remain an active player in this region and the leader in the LNG industry," said Bernard Samuels, executive director of TaLNG Co. Ltd., a 50/50 venture between Shell and Taiwan's Asia Cement Corp. *Reuters*



ALAN Greenspan (left), chair of the board of governors of the Federal Reserve System, smiles after making remarks as Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank president Anthony Santomero takes the podium at the opening of the new "Money in Motion" exhibit at the Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank on Wednesday in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The interactive exhibit educates people about money, banking, and the Federal Reserve.

Japan bonds bounce back, stocks ease

SINGAPORE—Japan's battered government bonds got a reprieve on Friday after yield-hungry investors reversed another slump in prices and Tokyo stocks gave up some of the recent sizzling gains that had undermined the debt market.

Stock benchmarks were mixed across Asia after weak US employment data and a surprisingly strong services sector report offered conflicting signals on the world's largest economy and biggest buyer of Asian exports. Taiwan shares were the best performers, closing at their highest level in almost a year.

The two economic reports and the volatility of Japanese bonds left the dollar little changed, with the closure of US markets for Independence Day slowing trade.

Japanese government bonds (JGBs) started the day with a further slide following a weak auction of new bonds on Thursday and talk by Finance Minister Masajuro Shiokawa of fresh bond issues.

But after the yield on the benchmark 10-year JGB rose 29 basis points to a one-year high of 1.40 percent, dealers said investors starved of assets with attractive yields moved

into the market. That pushed the yield back down to 1.05 percent.

"The yield of 1.4 percent is an attractive level for many investors, and I expect bargain hunting around this level," said Yasuhiro Miyata, chief portfolio manager at DLIBJ Asset Management Co.

The surge in JGB yields, which had tripled from record lows hit only last month, has come as global equities have rallied on increasing hopes for a US economic recovery.

That optimism was dented by an unexpectedly large jump in monthly jobless figures on Thursday and some profit warnings from US companies.

In the meantime, Asian stocks followed Wall Street's dip on the figures, taking Tokyo's Nikkei average down 0.8 percent to 9,547.73 after it hit 10-month highs on Thursday.

The Nikkei's collective forecast price to earnings multiple, one measure of how expensive a market has become, has risen to 23.45 versus 17.85 for the S&P 500 Index.

"I personally think the market hit a ceiling yesterday," said Hiroaki Kuramochi, head of equities at Credit Lyonnais.

"Given the three-day weekend in the US, more and more players are heading to the sidelines, though buying on dips probably from public pension funds is providing a support."

Hong Kong and Singapore shares were little changed at midday and Australia eased more than half a percent.

But Taiwan rose 1.1 percent as computer screen maker Chunghwa Picture Tubes jumped 7 percent on improving sales prospects.

South Korea rose 0.9 percent after the government said it was considering cutting taxes on car purchases. Hyundai Motor Co., South Korea's biggest auto manufacturer, gained 4.5 percent and smaller rival Ssangyong Motor soared 11.8 percent.

The dollar was a touch firmer against the yen following the mixed data on Thursday and the early slide in JGBs, which encouraged speculation that Japanese investors will move money overseas.

The US jobless rate climbed to 6.4 percent, a nine-year high, above May's 6.1 percent and economists' forecast of 6.2 percent. *Reuters*

SIA crew offered early retirement benefits

SINGAPORE—Singapore Airlines said it would offer male cabin crew members at least 18 months' pay if they accept early retirement, as the national airline tries to recover from the economic effects of the Iraq war and the SARS outbreak.

The airline said in a news release that it would offer 18 months' pay for those who retire at age 57, and 30 months' pay for those who retire at 45.

The news release did not say why the airline

was only offering the deal to male crew, or if it would make female crew a similar offer.

There is no standard retirement age for cabin crew. Many are integrated into other divisions of the airline after reaching 45, or are enlisted to help train younger staff.

Singapore Airlines said recently it had been losing S\$6 million (US\$3.42 million) daily since April and has been aggressively trying to cut costs. The airline has warned that it could

report its first-ever loss at the end of the current quarter.

Singapore Airlines had long been one of the most profitable carriers in Asia.

Singapore Airlines reached an agreement with its unions earlier this week to cut its pilots' wages by at least 11 percent, and those of its general staff by at least 5 percent.

It is attempting to slash at least S\$200 million from its S\$2.25 billion annual wage costs. *AP*

British Airways lures passengers with cheap fares

LONDON—British Airways Plc said it was luring back passengers with cheap fares, boosting its shares as hopes rise the airline industry is recovering from the war in Iraq and a deadly virus outbreak in Asia.

Europe's biggest airline, severely hit by an industry-wide slump since the September 2001 attack on the United States, said passenger traffic rose 5.8 percent in June from a year ago.

But it also said it was cutting fares and that first-quarter revenues would be well down on the year before as a result.

British Airways (BA) shares closed up 5.5 percent at 163 pence, after touching a two-week high of 163-1/4p, outperforming a 0.5 percent rise in the FTSE-100 index of leading UK shares.

Airline stocks had earlier been boosted by Dutch carrier KLM, which noted some recovery on Asian routes since the outbreak of SARS peaked in the region. KLM has

the biggest exposure to Asian destinations among European carriers.

Analysts welcomed the improvement in BA's traffic figures, but said it was too early to talk of a sustained recovery.

"Things are better, but that doesn't mean things are good," said Commerzbank analyst Dominic Edridge. He said an industry cutting prices to prop up demand was not in the best of health.

BA said its passenger load factor—the number of passengers carried as a proportion of available seats—rose 2.0 percentage points to 76.8 percent in June.

"The traffic certainly is improving from the lowest levels that we've seen earlier this year," George Stinnes, BA's head of investor relations, told reporters.

But he said first-quarter revenues would fall about 10 percent because of heavy price cutting and the outlook was fragile as travellers continued to book at

the last minute.

BA said first-quarter operating profit would be marginally positive, thanks in part to cost-cutting.

But Stinnes said the firm

would post a loss at the pre-tax level after including a 79 million pound loss from the sale of dba, formerly Deutsche BA, in first-quarter figures. *Reuters*

Sheer driving pleasure at its best



BMW Certified Pre-Owned

Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Was	Now
323i	2001	Titanium Silver	26k	1,900,000.00	1,840,000.00
316i	2002	Titanium Silver	20k	1,375,000.00	1,325,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Titanium Silver	11k	1,810,000.00	1,760,000.00
318i Limousine	2002	Black Sapphire	5k	1,870,000.00	1,810,000.00
318i Executive	2002	Titanium Silver	15k	1,950,000.00	1,850,000.00
325i	2002	Titanium Silver	13k	2,450,000.00	2,350,000.00
525i	2002	Titanium Silver	15k	2,825,000.00	2,750,000.00
525i	2002	Black Sapphire	10k	3,050,000.00	2,950,000.00

Other BMW Pre-Owned Cars

Model	Year	Color	Mileage	Was	Now
316i	1996	Boston Green	40k	685,000.00	660,000.00
316i	1997	Alpine White	47k	710,000.00	690,000.00
318i Executive	2001	Black Sapphire	20k	1,850,000.00	1,800,000.00
320i	1996	Cosmos Black	85k	850,000.00	800,000.00
325i	2002	Sienna Red	9k	2,350,000.00	2,310,000.00
523i	1997	Dunkel Blue	57k	1,600,000.00	1,525,000.00
318tds	1996	Titanium Silver	50k	900,000.00	875,000.00

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Beach basketballin' in Puerto

BASKETBALL is... well, do we have to explain it? Man, being a basketball crazy nation, of course, we all know what basketball is.

And, usually, we dribble and shoot on the streets or in the gym. That's how we play it or how we see it played. But, can it get more exciting? Well, you bet it can.

Bitten by the summer bug, San Miguel Beer raised the country's most popular game to a tropical level and took it to the beach, where the sun, sea and sand are.

They amplified the fun and excitement of the game to launch Liga SMB, yet another wise move from the country's leading brewer, not just of beer, but of exciting gimmicks (they brought to our shores the Oktoberfest, remember?).

Out from the hardcourt and in to the beach, San Miguel transformed



the Galeran shores to a fiesta-cum liga party place where a chunk of Manila's most athletic came to ball battle and booze binge.

Ballers heeded the call and participated in the side events which included Water Basketball, the Three-Point

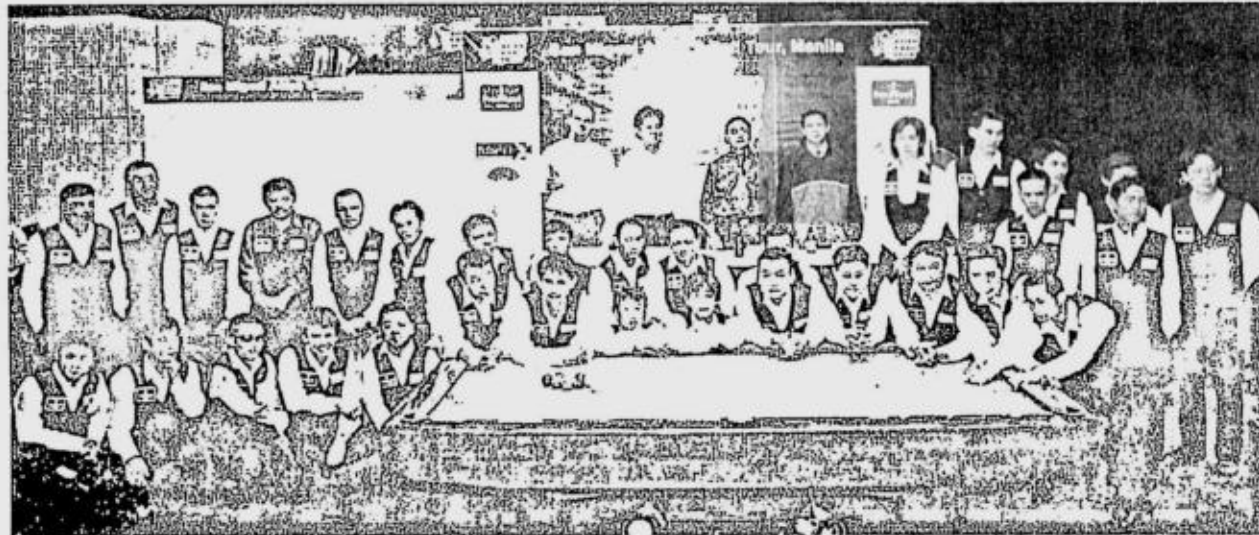
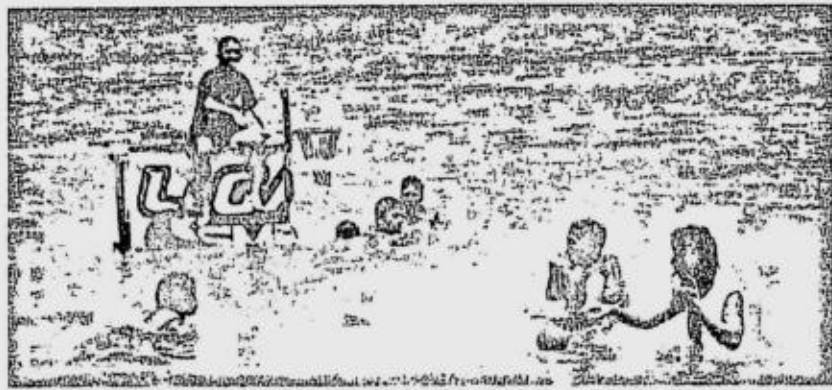
Shootout, the Slam Dunk, the Drunk and Dunk, and the SMB Hoops.

That was three straight days of hoops and great bodies, and two nights of Pinoy music from K24-7, The Dawn and True Faith, and four whole days of SMB, SMB and more SMB.

San Miguel Beer literally overflowed in Puerto, not to be outdone by the inviting cool waters of the beach.

The event was an exciting mix of two of the country's favorite pastimes: beer and basketball. And Galeran beach bums responded with great enthusiasm as they drank and dunked at the same time.

Now ain't that something that would kick boredom out of summer for good.



SMB ASIAN 9 BALL TOUR

In photo are the participants of the SMB Asian Ball Tour, held at the Pearl Plaza Parañaque. Including Efrén Bata Reyes (4th from left) and Django Bustamante (6th from left). At the back are (from left) Richard Young, VP for

event management group, ESPN Star Sports; Aristeo Puyat, president of Puyat Sports; Comm. Emmanuel Palabrica, Games and Amusement Board; and Geran Guerrero, SMB brand manager.



CREATE YOUR OWN PIZZA MEDIA CHALLENGE

Pizza Hut held the first ever Chef's for a Day Create Your Own Pizza - A Media Challenge recently. Held at Pizza Hut's newest branch in Fort Bonifacio Global City, the exclusive media event gave way to various members from print, radio and TV to get together and try out their skills in creat-

ing their own pizza. In photo are the awardees of the People's Choice Award, for their creation - Magic Street Pizza. They are Team B composed of (from left) Apryl Galang of Manila Bulletin, Wave 89.1 disk jock Erik Mana, Charmaine Pidal of Daily Tribune and Jun Brum of Today.

PSGP meets at St. Luke's

THE PARKINSON'S Support Group of the Philippines (PSGP) Foundation will be holding its next meeting on July 6 (Sunday) at 12:00 p.m. at the 14th floor auditorium of the Cathedral Heights Bldg. Complex (CHBC) South Tower of St. Luke's. The meeting is free and open to the public. The PSGP is a registered nonprofit organization that was founded in 1999, which aims to provide families and patients with Parkinson's disease, parkinsonism, tremor, or dystonia with information about their affliction. It also acts as a venue for interaction with other families and patients, exchange of experience and knowledge, and finding support among each other. For more information, interested parties can contact the Movement Disorders Center of St. Luke's at 723-0301 local 3101 or 727-5552.

Personality packaging for success seminar

CLASSICAL singer, management training consultant and personal development coach Josephine Gomez, assisted by make-up experts from Caring Colors, will conduct a seminar-workshop on men's and women's dressing, skin and hair care, make-up and anti-aging tips on July 6 and 20 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Galleria Suites (formerly Manila Galleria Suites) on ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. To be discussed are colors, fabric, cuts and styles that suit different professions and enhance various personality and figure types for corporate, cocktail and formal dressing, wardrobe essentials, the use of accessories, skin and hair care and corporate and evening make-up for all ages. The seminar-workshop is presented by The Corporate Mind Management Consultancy and Executive Training Company. For details, call tel. 687-7898 or email corpmind@ed-small.com.ph.

Coffee, Tea and Specialty Beverage show set

THE COFFEE, Tea and Specialty Beverage Trade Show gathers everyone involved in the coffee and tea industry for a grand exhibit of everything coffee and tea. It will be on July 4 to 6 at the Megatrade Hall 3, SM Megamall. Exhibitors from various coffee and tea houses, companies and franchises in the Philippines will showcase products like local and imported coffee beans, teas, and coffee and tea blends. Also present are makers and distributors of coffee and tea and tea brewing equipment and accessories to present the latest state-of-the-art machines. It is organized by Primetrade Asia Inc. and supported by the Specialty Coffee Association of the Philippines, the Coffee Foundation of the Philippines Inc. and the Department of Trade and Industry. Registration for exhibitors is ongoing. For inquiries, call 896-0682 or 897-0139.



UMC HONORS BEST PERFORMING NSP FOR 1ST QUARTER

Universal Motors Corporation (UMC), assembler and distributor of Nissan light commercial and recreational vehicles, recently honored its best performing Nissan Sales Professional (NSP) for the first quarter of 2003. Ariel Noora of Core Automotive Resources, Inc. (CAR Inc.), merited the award for surpassing the performance of his fellow NSPs from among UMC's network of dealers, in terms of delivery, purchase and aftersales fol-

low ups from January to March. Shown in photo are (l-r) CAR Inc.'s ace team: Ricky Reyes, group sales manager; Rody Cruz, general sales manager; Rey Plata, general manager; Ariel Noora, award recipient; Sarah Chan of UMC's Relationship Marketing Department (RMD); Lito Cruz, sales manager of CAR Inc.; Marlon de Mesa and Ryan Cruz both from UMC RMD, who were all present for the awarding.

1st Kalayaan Art Festival held in Cavite

IN LIEU of the week-long celebration of Independence Day, the Cavite Society of Young Artists (CSYA) held the 1st Kalayaan Art Festival in Kawit, Cavite, right in front of the historical Aguinaldo Shrine.

Workshops and seminars took place simultaneously. There was a painting and crafts workshop facilitated by the young artists of Cavite. Former photography students of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas conducted a basic photography seminar, which was attended by young enthusiasts. A free acting workshop with CCP resident actor Royder Camañag also took place for young Caviteños wanting to know more about their crafts.

At around sunset, skateboarders and rollerbladers in their "trashier" attire made their moves in front of the shrine, doing their stunts while sporting little Philippine flags on their pockets and bags.

A musical showcase took place afterwards featuring 3 different artists and groups. First of was the Cantico de San Jose "CDGC" choir of Child Development and Guidance Center in Binakayan, Kawit, Cavite, who performed folk and pop music

for the said occasion. Second was Peter Bjerner, former host of 5 and UP the children-oriented show that used to air on GMA 7 under Probe Production. Peter, 15, played the violin for the crowd. Finally, RUSH, a band commissioned by the Cavite Society of Young Artists (CSYA), came up with the tunes for their original chabacano music in Reggae and Blues, with lyrics written by CSYA chair Niccolo Cosme and translated by Angela Nuñez in Chabacano de Cavite. This is in propagation of the almost-dead dialect. Handouts were also given out to disseminate information on how chabacano de Cavite reached Zamboanga.

The said festival was a dry run for next year, as CSYA plan to make a bigger event for the Independence Day celebration for 2004. The organization is distressed that Cavite is not given much importance with regards to the celebration of Independence Day. They believe that the center of celebration should be in Kawit, Cavite the exact place of the proclamation of the Philippine Independence.

The event was also made possible by the help of the Kawit First Republic Jaycees and Ad Infinitum foundation Inc.



BHPI AWARDS GRANTS TO TWO STREET CHILDREN'S FOUNDATIONS

Baxter HealthCare Phil. Inc. (BHPI), the local entity of the world's leading name in critical care therapies, recently conducted the conferment ceremony of two grants to two street children's foundations, the Pangarap Foundation Inc. and Tuloy sa Don Bosco Foundation. Shown in photo during the ceremony were the management committee of BHPI together with the leaders of the Tuloy, Pangarap and Consuelo Foundations. Seated (from left) Bro. Francis Tanaga, director

(Pangarap); Geocel Olanday, general manager (Baxter); Fr. Rocky Evangelista (Tuloy); Ray Salvosa, managing director (Consuelo). Standing (From left) Danny dela Cruz, manufacturing and operations manager; Thomas Tsai, director, supply chain (Asia); Bong Yam-bao, MD business unit director; Arlyn de Jesus, HR head; Bambl Servado, finance and Renal director; Philip Katipunan, Renal PD business unit manager and Bong Valenzuela, Bioscience business unit manager.

VC DONATES LINEN TO DOH

Victoria Court donated linen to the Department of Health as part of its community service. Dr. Consorcio Lini-Quizon, DOH - head executive office, received the linen from William Go, business manager - south, of Victoria Court. Other managers present during the donation were Ferdie Samarista of VC North Edsa, Ricky Maramot of VC McArthur, Bong Banan of VC Las Piñas and Mike Gabat of VC Balintawak.



COSMETIDERM OPENS NEWEST BRANCH

The opening of the newest branch of Cosmetiderm Laser Surgicenter at the Ortigas Center was a star-studded affair. In photo are special guests

Maul Taylor, Carmi Martin, Pilinky Recto, Marjorie Barreto, Pia Montiveros, Dennis Padilla and Gary Estrada who are regular visitors of Cosmetiderm.

ProductFiles

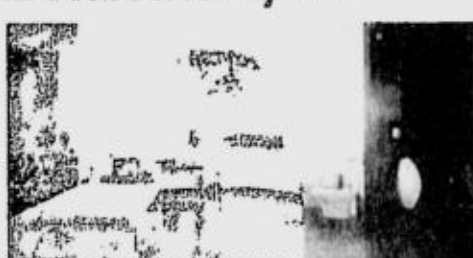
Affordable treats from Sonaire Club Spa

SONAIRE Club Spa offers you the wellness that you need to stay refreshed and reinvigorated in this stress-laden and breakneck pace of city living. Now, the club offers memberships that allows you to indulge in its wide array of services at amazingly affordable rates and huge discounts. Sonaire Club Spa offers the newest facilities and amenities to pamper and rejuvenate your body at the most affordable rates ever found in Quezon City. Sonaire Club Spa is located at 2/F MJB Bldg., 220 Tomas Morato Ave., Quezon City. For inquiries on memberships or the packages and discount offers, call 928-3539 or 415-3760.



Magnifica bathroom series by Toto

IMAGINE walking into a bathroom filled with superbly sculpted bathroom pieces that exude pure artistic sophistication. With the Magnifica bathroom series by Toto, this is not a far out thought. Beneath the good looks however, the Magnifica series lives up to Toto's tradition of beauty, power and performance in bathroom products. This makes it appealing to both appearance-oriented and performance-conscious consumers.



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**BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE - INFRASTRUCTURE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID**

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) invites accredited general building contractors of the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) with minimum license Category of "A", Registration of "Medium A" or higher for Building, and at least 5 years experience as general building contractors to apply for eligibility and subsequently to bid, if eligible, for the refurbishing of the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th floors of the SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City, for the proposed PDIC extension office. The contract to be bid is funded by PDIC and covers architectural, civil, electrical, cabling (voice and data) and sanitary/plumbing works with an approved budget of P9,144,000.00.

Additional information including the general criteria to be used in the eligibility screening of contractors, evaluation of bids and postqualification of the lowest calculated bid are available at the BAC-INFRA Secretariat, PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City starting June 30, 2003.

The following schedule of activities shall be followed:

- June 30 – July 9, 2003 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) – Issuance of eligibility forms upon submission of Letter of Intent and PCAB License and Registration and/or Authorized/Installer Certification and payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00, at the BAC-INFRA Secretariat, PDIC Building, 2228 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City. Bring original copies of License and Registration for authentication. Both must be unexpired before the eligibility screening, after opening of bids, and during the entire duration of the contract.
- July 11, 2003 (3:00 p.m.) – Deadline for submission of accomplished eligibility forms, at the BAC-INFRA Secretariat.
- July 16 – 17, 2003 (9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) – Issuance of bid documents to eligible bidders upon payment of non-refundable fee of P1,500.00 for refurbishing and P500.00 for cabling, at the BAC-INFRA Secretariat.
- July 18, 2003 (1:30 p.m.) – Pre-bid conference at the 6th floor, SSS Building, Ayala Avenue corner Herrera Street, Makati City.
- July 23, 2003 (1:00 p.m.) – Deadline for submission of bids. Opening of bids shall follow immediately at a place to be specified in the Notice of Eligibility.

The eligibility screening of contractors, evaluation of bids, and awarding of contract shall be governed by the provisions of RA 9184 and EO 40 and its implementing rules and regulations. PDIC hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or informality therein, and to award the contract to the contractor whose bid is considered the most advantageous to the corporation. PDIC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

BAC-INFRA

(PDI – June 28 & July 5, 2003)



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City, 1100
Tel. Nos. (632) 929-6626 to 29 • (632) 929-6252
929-6620 • 929-6633 to 35
929-7041 to 43

July 1, 2003

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that the following confiscated vehicles with corresponding description/plate numbers will be disposed of by the DENR:

DESCRIPTION	PLATE NUMBER
1. JEEP	DMF-609
2. TOYOTA HI-ACE	FAL-101
3. JEEP	DAD-384
4. FORD FIERA	DGA-604
5. ISUZU VAN	TEZ-705
6. TRUCK (10 wheeler)	PPA-752
7. BUS (Florida)	BYB-372
8. PUJ	(no plate no.)
9. TRUCK (6 wheeler)	NBC-744
10. TRUCK (forwarder)	PBK-310
11. PUJ	DEY-763
12. PUJ	(no plate no.)
13. ISUZU ELF (6 wheeler)	PDC-253
14. PUJ	(no plate no.)
15. PUJ	NVB-621
16. TRUCK (6 wheeler)	CBV-877
17. TRUCK (6 wheeler)	NPG-904
18. TRUCK (6x6)	CAC-931
19. CLOSED VAN (6 wheeler)	NHV-826
20. TRUCK (10 wheeler)	TBR-316
21. TRUCK (6 wheeler)	DAH-630
22. TRUCK	DCW-142
23. PUJ	DBW-250
24. TRUCK (6 wheeler)	NRE-508
25. TRUCK (6 wheeler)	NJG-947
26. ISUZU ELF (6 wheeler)	CCE-510
27. TRUCK (6 wheeler)	NAG-227
28. TRUCK (10 wheeler)	(no plate no.)
29. TRUCK (10 wheeler)	DCS-529
30. TRUCK (6 wheeler)	NTR-177
31. PUJ	DDJ-772
32. DUMP TRUCK	DGU-528
33. TRUCK (10 wheeler)	TAU-543
34. TRUCK (6 wheeler)	DCP-755
35. TRUCK (6 wheeler)	BBA-578
36. TRUCK	(no plate no.)

Legitimate owners of these abovementioned confiscated vehicles should notify this office of any protest, appeal or request within 10 days upon publication of this notice, otherwise this office will proceed with the public auction/bidding of these vehicles in accordance with existing government accounting and auditing rules and regulations.

(Sgd.) DR. ROLANDO L. METIN
Undersecretary for Management
and Technical Services

(PDI – July 5 & 6, 2003)



National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY SCREENING AND TO BID

Date: June 11, 2003
Contract No.: Sp01.BSETL.Lw-0314

- Contract No.: Sp01.BSETL.Lw-0314 Supply and Delivery of Suspension Insulator Assemblies and Accessories for the Bauang - San Esteban 230 kV Line 2 Stringing Project
- The contract to be performed by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing and delivering complete the suspension insulator assemblies and accessories to TRANSCO's designated stockyard.
- The Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid is US\$ 536,745.00 plus Php 7,298,459.00 from Internal Cash Generation.
- Application for Eligibility is open to Filipino firms and contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid.
- Application for Eligibility shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only Eligible Bidders shall be invited by Transco in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer to the contract under bidding subject to Postqualification before an award is made. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.
- Bidding Documents and Eligibility Documents will be available for issuance on June 20, 2003 at the Bids and Contracts Management Department, Second Floor, Building No. 2, Power Center, Agham Road corner Quezon Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1104, Telefax No.: 921-2308 upon presentation of Letter of Intent, Contractor's License and a payment of non-refundable fee of P8,000.00 per copy.
- Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, Forms, documents and statements shall be on or before July 21, 2003 and shall be submitted at the registration office and address mentioned above. If the date is a non-working day or declared non-working day, the deadline for submission shall be moved to the next working day immediately following said date. Late submission and/or incomplete application shall not be accepted.
- Contractor, not yet included in the Transco's List of Registered Contractors, who wishes to participate in the public bidding, in order to facilitate eligibility check/screening, are requested to register with the registration office mentioned above by submitting the following basic requirements, duly notarized, which should be maintained current and updated at least once a year. A Certificate of Registration will be issued to contractors upon approval.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) business name registration or Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) registration certificate, as appropriate;
Mayor's permit and/or municipal license for the current year;
Taxpayer's Identification Number;
Notarized statement of the prospective bidder that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agency, office or corporation, including, in the case of procurement of civil works, non-inclusion in the "blacklist" of contractors issued by the CIAP;
Audited financial statement, stamped "received" by the BIR or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing, among others, the prospective bidder's total and current assets and liabilities inclusive of Income Tax Return and Receipt;
Contractor's License

- TRANSCO reserves the right to reject any Application for Eligibility or all bids without offering any reasons, waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the government.
- Additional information shall be furnished upon request. All communications should be addressed to the undersigned at the aforementioned address.

(Sgd.) WINIFREDO SM. PANGILINAN
Chairman
Bids and Awards Committee &
Vice President, Eng'g Design and Construction

(PDI – July 1 & 5, 2003)



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
Dagupan City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

- Scope of Work: Planning, Design, Construction and Site Development of the Dagupan Public Market Project, Dagupan City.
- Application for Eligibility is open to all contractors who have the legal, technical and financial requisites of the contract to be bid/project and who possess the following qualifications:
 - PCAB/AC Category – AAA and large "B" for buildings and Industrial plant;
 - Must be capable of undertaking the planning design, construction and site development of a civic/commercial center.
 - Must be willing to undertake the project and accept payment in the form of Dagupan City Bonds redeemable in seven (7) years from the date of issuance
- Eligibility Documents and Forms will be available for issuance on July 2, 2003 at the General Services Office (GSO), Dagupan City Hall Complex, AB Fernandez Avenue, Dagupan City. Tel. No. (075) 522-3967
- Deadline for submission of duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, documents and forms will be received at the GSO not later than July 17, 2003 at 1:30 p.m. Opening of eligibility documents will follow immediately after the deadline for submission of documents. Late documents will not be accepted.
- Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility will be issued by the PBAC secretariat on July 24, 2003 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at GSO.
- Bid documents will be issued by the PBAC Secretariat to pre-qualified contractors on July 25, 2003 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- The Terms of Reference for the project shall be issued to qualified proponents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php100,000.00) for the project TOR.
- Pre-bidding conference shall be held on August 8, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at the PBAC secretariat office.
- Deadline for submission of bids shall be on October 24, 2003 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. only at the PBAC secretariat office
- The City of Dagupan reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive any informality or defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the city.

(Sgd.) BENJAMIN S. LIM
City Mayor
PBAC Chairman

(PDI – June 28, July 5 & 12, 2003)



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TASK FORCE ENGINEERING, ASSESSMENT & MONITORING
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB Number: 2002-03-SEMP-DepEd-BEPP
Project Title: CY 2001 Social Expenditure Management Project 2 (SEMP 2)
Contract Title: 10% Unallocated Portion
Construction of School Buildings for Public Elementary Schools in NCR Region VII & XI

June 25, 2003
Loan No. 7116 PH

- The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for the Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to provide a budget support facility towards the financing of the Social Expenditure Management Project 2 (SEMP 2) in various currencies. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this facility will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the Basic Education Facilities Program (BEFP) to be implemented by the Department of Education (DepEd).
 - The Department of Education (DepEd) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of DepEd Central Office, DepEd Complex, Pasig City now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the bidding of the construction of school buildings located in the NCR, Regions VII and XI (separate packages).
- | School | Venue | Pre-Bid Conference | Bid Opening |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Digos Central Elem. School, Digos City / Reg. XI | DepEd Regional Office, Reg. XI | July 10, 2003, 2:00 PM | July 28, 2003, 10:00 AM |
| b. Damong Malit Elem. School, O.C. / NCR | DepEd Central Office | July 14, 2003, 2:00 PM | August 1, 2003, 10:00 AM |
| c. Tabok 2 Elem. School, Mandaue City / Reg. VII | DepEd Regional Office, Reg. VII | July 16, 2003, 2:00 PM | August 8, 2003, 10:00 AM |
- For purposes of this bid, eligible must have experience in works of a similar nature and complexity over the last five years.
 - Interested eligible bidders may acquire a complete set of bid documents starting June 26, 2003 upon submission of a letter of intent to: the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at DepEd Central Office, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City. Tel. No. 636-6543 for Damong Malit ES, the DepEd Regional Offices for Tabok 2 ES and Digos CES. A complete set of bid documents will be available for a non-refundable fee of: Php 3,000.00.
 - The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of the Contract are provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents. Procurement of Works.
 - Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of three (3%) percent of total bid price in the form of a bank guarantee, cashier's manager's check or an irrevocable letter of credit.

Pre-Bid Conference and Bid Opening dates are as follows:
(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

(PDI – June 27 & July 5, 2003)



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tamagapan ng Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

**INVITATION TO REBID
NETRC 03-07-01**

The Department of Education through the National Educational Testing and Research Center (NETRC) is inviting all security printers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Printing and Delivery of the 2003 Diagnostic Test Booklets and Examiner's Handbook. The approved budget for the project is P7,500,000.00.

All interested security printers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting July 7-18, 2003 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd website at <http://www.deped.gov.ph>. Bidders who had previously availed of the bidding documents can join the rebidding but has to secure the new bidding documents.

A pre-bid conference will be held on July 11, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on July 25, 2003, at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this re-invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI – July 5 & 10, 2003)



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines
Telefax: 633-93-42 • Direct Line: 631-96-40
Trunk Line: 632-13-61 locals 2007 / 2221

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

**INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
GSD 03-06-12**

The Department of Education through the General Services Division is inviting all suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Ground Maintenance of DepEd for 2003 – 2004. The approved budget for the contract is P2,340,000.00.

All interested suppliers may avail of the bidding documents upon submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) starting July 7-21, 2003 at the BAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A, Mabini Bldg., DepEd Complex, Pasig City or visit the DepEd Website at <http://www.deped.gov.ph>.

A pre-bid conference will be held on July 21, 2003, 10:00 AM at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, DepEd Complex, Pasig City. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids shall be on August 4, 2003 at the same time and place mentioned above.

DepEd-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids. DepEd-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

(PDI – July 5 & 10, 2003)



Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
U.N. Avenue, Paco, Manila

RE-INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites Contractors with technical knowhow which specializes in Waterproofing using Polyurethane Spray Foam Technology Application or Contractors with Joint Venture Agreement to Applicants who Specialized in Waterproofing using Polyurethane Spray Foam Technology to apply for eligibility and, if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the herunder project:

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET
Repair of MFC Warehouse #3	NFA-ACA Compound, Valenzuela City	P 4,095,686.20
SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES		
Issuance of Eligibility Forms and Checklists		July 7-14, 2003
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Filled-up Forms and Requirements		July 16, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents		July 28-30, 2003
Pre-bidding Conference		August 14, 2003
Submission and Opening of Bids		August 29, 2003

Interested contractors shall submit their Eligibility Statements including Price Proposals in the prescribed forms to the Chairman, Regional Bid and Award Committee (RBAC), National Food Authority, U.N. Ave., Paco, Manila.

Eligibility forms may be secured at the NFA-RBAC Secretariat upon presentation of Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable application fee of Php 500.00. Contractors who have previously paid Php 500.00 are no longer required to pay said amount.

Bid documents and plans shall be issued only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 2,500.00.

All particulars relative to Eligibility, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract shall be governed by the provisions of E.O. 40 and other applicable laws, rules and regulations.

This will supersede the Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid published on June 14 & 21, 2003.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any defect or informality, and to accept only such bids or to award to any contractor whose bid is considered most advantageous to the National Food Authority.

(Sgd.) ATTY. BASILIDES TACO
Asst. Regional Director & RBAC Chairman

(PDI – July 5 & 12, 2003)

HONDA ACCORD,
black, 97 model,
plate ending 1, 50,000 kms.,
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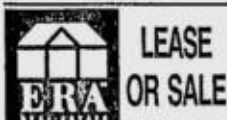
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5. Pasig Branch (near Pasig Station)
6. Quezon City Branch (near Quezon City Station)
7. San Juan Branch (near San Juan Station)
8. Taguig Branch (near Taguig Station)
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Mktg Staff 0919253623 Glenda

OFc Staff 0920-8062197

Wanted PHARMACIST
8427989 / 8090193

**PUBLIC
NOTICES****ANNOUNCEMENT**

JOB FAIR 09168259974 ANA

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that
the estate of the deceased
LEONARDO A. BALDO has
been extrajudicially settled
by and among his legiti-
mate heirs in an extrajudi-
cial settlement of estate of
the deceased brother dated
April 15, 2003 per Dec No.
362, Page No. 73, Book No.
XLVI, Series of 2003 of the
notarial register of Atty. El
Cid C. Fajardo, notary
public in and for Pasig City.
(PDI-June 21, 28, July 5, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given on the lost
Club Filipino Cert. #1103. If
no contest received new
certificate will be issued.
(PDI - July 5, 12 & 19, 2003)

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An International Development Agency seeks a Country Project Manager (CPM)

Full time contract position

The Canadian Executive Service Organization (CESO), is seeking a Country Project Manager (CPM) for the second phase of its Business Advisory Project (BAP) which will operate in the Visayas and Mindanao over the next four years. The goal of the BAP is to strengthen small and medium enterprises through the provision of Canadian and Filipino business advisory services.

As the key liaison between CESO and local clients, the CPM will be responsible for project promotion, management of the Cebu-based office, and a staff of local business advisers, in-coming volunteer advisers, and the monitoring and reporting on project progress.

The successful candidate must have a masters degree, 10 years of experience in business consulting, project management, and marketing. Other qualifications include small business management, experience in international donor funded projects, Results Based Management (RBM) and an active network of contacts within the SME sector.

Interested applicants should submit their detailed CVs including a covering letter outlining relevance of background and experience to the job and 3 current references by EMAIL to pcco.cpm@cidamnl.com.ph on or before Friday, August 1. CVs should be in Microsoft Word format.

Please indicate your current professional rate in your application. This information would be treated with the highest level of confidentiality.

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INVITATION ON NEGOTIATED OFFER

The PNOC Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) will entertain offers on a *First Come, First-Served* basis for the following vehicles on CASH, "AS IS, WHERE IS" basis.

Description	Location	Fair Market Value
1. Toyota Corolla Gli, Model 1994	Bataan	Php 170,000.00
2. Honda Accord, Model 1994	Bataan	Php 250,000.00
3. Toyota Hilux 2.8 D Pick-up, Model 2000	Bataan	Php 520,000.00

Interested parties may obtain Negotiated Forms upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PESOS TWO HUNDRED (Php 200.00) from the PPDC-Disposal Committee (Makati Office) or Site Administration Department (Bataan office). Issuance of documents as well as inspection of vehicles is from July 7-25, 2003.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
841 0644 / 810 6418 (Makati) c/o Mr. Audie C. Ocampo
(047) 244 7442 / (047) 244 5886 (Bataan) c/o Mr. Ronnie C. Roque

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
Chairman, Disposal Committee

(PDI-July 5 and 13, 2003)

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Marikina Tel. 948-9827 • Baqulo Tel. (074)442-6417/ (074)442-9016
FOR OTHER AREAS NOT LISTED PLS. CALL 928-1991 OR 927-4181

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Bukidnon
City of Malaybalay
CM Recto St., 8700
Tel. (088) 221-2267 / 813-2741, Fax (088) 813-2739
Email: cmo-mly@mozcom.com

OFFICE OF THE CITY MAYOR

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

The City of Malaybalay, Province of Bukidnon is financing the cost of undertaking the Construction of Malaybalay City Water Supply System.

The City Government of Malaybalay as executing local government unit, now invites interested licensed contractors and joint ventures with Category AAA and Classification for Large B - Water Supply, accredited and classified by PCAB and CIAP to submit their Pre-qualification Statements (Pre-Q) for the implementation of the above project.

The Scope of work shall include the following:

- Construction of reinforced concrete ground reservoir with a capacity of 1,600 cu.m. at Brgy. Sumpung;
- Installation of about 15.0 km transmission line of sizes ranging from 150 mm to 400 mm diameter including waterway crossings;
- Construction of a treatment plant at Kimabong, Brgy. Sumpung;
- Construction of a diversion dam and intake structure at Kibabag Creek;
- Installation of valves, interconnections, pipe appurtenances and all related miscellaneous civil works.

A complete set of Prequalification statements (Pre-Q) forms may be obtained by interested contractors and joint ventures from the PBAC through a written application address to the undersigned and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00. Request submitted by mail should include a Manager's / Cashier's check in the amount of currency indicated above in favor of the City of Malaybalay. The City of Malaybalay will promptly mail the documents through LBC / ABOITIZ, but under no circumstances can it be held responsible for late delivery or loss of the documents mailed to the applicant.

Interested contractors may obtain further information at the PBAC, City Hall Compound, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon, Philippines, or call (088)-221-49-47, look for ENGR. BENITO O. LUGTU / TOMAS Y. TAGA, Project Manager.

Completed Pre-Q Forms must likewise be submitted to the PBAC Secretariat on or before July 18, 2003 at office hours (before 5:00 PM). Documents submitted received late will not be considered and will be returned unopened. All applicant contractors will be notified in writing on the status of the Pre-Q evaluation. Only pre-qualified contractors will be issued contract documents. Bidding date will be announced later.

The City of Malaybalay reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive minor informality in the bids received, and to award the contract to the bidder whose bid, as evaluated by PBAC, is the most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) HON. FLORENCIO T. FLORES, JR.
City Mayor / PBAC Chairman

(PDI - July 5, 2003)

INVITATION TO BID "AS IS WHERE IS"
Damaged Motor Vehicles

1995 Toyota Corolla XE/UDL-151
1999 Nissan Sentra 1.3/WJL-522
1999 Toyota Rav 4/ETD-999

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CRISPINA MANIQUIS FLORESCIO

(Pining, Cris)

Peacefully joined our Creator on July 3, 2003
at the age of 74.

Her loving children and grandchildren:

Bhoy & Ping
Jonathan & Jacklyn

Fe & Bell Ella
Twinkle, Chacha & Lalabelle

Pinky & Violet
Paolo, Dido, Coco, Andrea, Niko

Blue & Aivi
Miguel, Raphael, Gabriel & Uriel

Joy & Walter Muñoz
Jason, Crystal & Marco

Boyet & Bong
Patrick & Andrew

Batchut & Michael
Daniel & Nathaniel

And her sister **Puring**, brothers **Peping & Maximo (†)**, in laws, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Inc. (inside Manila Memorial Park), Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 8 after the 8:00 AM mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

DRA. CLEOTILDE F. ABELEDA

(of Cabanatuan City)

who peacefully passed away in the Grace
of our Lord on June 16, 2003

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends and all those who offered prayers and Masses, sent condolences, flowers, donations and food, attended the funeral rites, helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

Her husband **Dr. Augusto "Ogie" Abeleda, Sr.** and children and in-laws **Analette and Arthur, Anthony, Jong and Rochelle, Arleen and Aba;** grandchildren **Alexis, Ara, Gelli, Randee, Trixie and Apple.**

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INTERMENT NOTICE

Name	Date of Interment	Time	Place of Interment	Place of Wake
ABSTENCIA M. PARUCHO	JULY 4	1:00 PM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Main Park, Calamba City	85 L22 Silangan Vill., Carabang, Laguna
ALDRIN Y. MORAN	JULY 5	10:00 AM	Holy Gardens Greenhills Main Park, Calamba City	007 B Comm. Ave., Gao, Quezon City

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"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies; and whoever believes in Me will never die."

John 11:25-26

Our Dearly Beloved REYNALDO "FLOY" N. RIGOR

Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 58
on July 03, 2003

His beloved wife **Carolina Pasamba Rigor**, brothers and sisters **Pinky Farolan, Sluggo & Marivic, Snaffu & Ana, Spanky & Ging, Roger & Eloisa, Male & Celia, Ramon & Lisa, & Joy**, nephews & nieces, friends & relatives request the pious readers for the eternal repose of his soul.

He lies in state at Santuario de San Antonio, Capilla del Señor, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Tuesday morning, July 08, 2003 at Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Our beloved mother Encarnacion Ancheta Avena

Passed into the loving hands of our Lord
on July 1, 2003 at the age of 93
and has joined our beloved Father

Atty. **Francisco V. Avena (†)** and brothers **Junior (†)** and **Tingoy (†)**

We, **Bubut, Chiqui, Dave, Anil; Titos; Elilu, Karen; Manolo, Margo, Jaymee, Junior, Amy; Pepito; Monchito, Armi, R.J., Raffy, Teddy, Sandy;** and **Vichie** - kindly request you to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at Himlayang Pilipino on Tuesday, July 8, 2003 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

An obituary with a picture can be a
fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

— Psalm 21:15

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More precious than silver — a tradition of caring

PATEROS, Metro Manila; July 5, 2003 — A quarter of a century ago, the first modern memorial park between Parañaque and Marikina opened its gates to the public. Its name: Garden of Memories. Its Silver Anniversary this year gives us occasion to look back on those twenty-five colorful years.

Big Dream in a Small Town

In the late 1970's, young Tomas S. Sanchez, Jr. of Pateros, a surveyor and a real estate broker for the Ayala Corp. and Zobel de Ayala family, realized that the antiquated cemeteries in Pateros and Taguig had become congested and unsightly. And, ironically, while some old people abroad were coming home to be buried, well-off residents were being buried in far-away Parañaque and Marikina. It was about time Pateros and Taguig had their own modern memorial park. His was a big dream for a small town.

Others See the Vision, Too

Their location was ideal: midway between the memorial parks in Parañaque and Marikina, and adjacent to Pasig, Fort Bonifacio, Makati and Mandaluyong. Tom went to see people who might become interested in his dream: Dr. Francisco Tangco and other of ricefield owners at the Pateros-Taguig boundary; Gen. Normando Sta. Ana, the mayor of Pateros; Mayor Levy Mariano of Taguig; as well as other prospective investors.

The Dream Come True

Before long, on March 6, 1978, twenty-six enthusiastic organizers registered TAPAT Park Developers, Inc., with the SEC ("TAPAT", meaning "faithful" or "sincere", being an acronym for Taguig-Pateros). The new corporation had a paid-up capital of P2,470,350.00.

To safeguard against floods, they filled the ground to several meters above the original level. They completed the memorial park without resorting to pre-selling for land development — a modest "first" in the country's memorial industry. When selling began on July 5, 1978, lots sold fast, made more attractive by the firm's moderate pricing strategy.

The Garden Grows ... and Grows

In 1983, a chapel-office building built in the middle of the park turned out to be the country's biggest — another "first" for Garden of Memories. With three memorial chapels, the company began to offer memorial services. Thus, in their chosen line of business, the Garden people had embarked on the noble vocation of caring for others.

In March 1987, the Board of Directors raised the company's capitalization from P12-million to P18 million. The Garden was rapidly growing, yet its people never forgot that their work was all about caring... which transcended the usual business relationships.

A Life Plan Is Hatched

Over the years, they had witnessed the plight of bereaved families suddenly saddled with unexpected expenses. Oftentimes, these families were at the mercy of those who saw their loss as a chance to make a quick profit. The Garden people wished they could do something.

The solution dawned on them: a comprehensive, reasonably-priced life plan. And so, fifteen years after Garden of Memories first came into existence, they formed a sister company, Garden of Memories Life Plan, Inc., on March 29, 1993.

Most Elegant Memorial Complex

They created a new, bigger building: an elegant Grecian-motif head office cum memorial chapels complex. Instead of the usual gray and white, it came in old rose and other warm pastel hues. With five additional chapels, the Garden of Memories total went up to eight.

Former President Corason Aquino gushed when she came to a wake at the Garden, "Ang ganda-ganda naman nilo. Pateros is so small and so poor, I never expected your town to have something as elegant as this."

The Model for all Life Plans

Garden of Memories was the first and only "One-Stop/All-in-One" company complete with all the products and services needed for memorial services. A client need talk only with them to take care of all the messy details, a big burden off the shoulders of grieving families.

Impressed, then SEC Chair Rosario N. Lopez said Garden of Memories should be the model for all life plans — it was the only one with its own mortuary and memorial chapels, aside from a memorial park, guaranteeing all the services in the pre-need contract.

A Number of "Firsts"

The new pre-need company took pride in a number of other "firsts" and well-thought-of amenities: Cozy different chapel set-ups. State-of-the-art "Natural Texture" preservation technique — the first in the country, by US-trained specialists. Modern preservation and cosmetological facilities using imported materials. The latest-model US hearses in the Philippines. Brownout-free service and air-conditioning. A "Memory Tree" for the family to remember their loved one by.

All these under a "Tratong Kababayan" service, whether the departed was a townmate or not, part of the Garden people's way of caring that had become a company tradition.

One Is Stronger Than Two

In 1994, to further strengthen the Life Plan and assure plan-holders of quality service, the directors of TAPAT Park Developers, Inc., and Garden of Memories Life Plan, Inc., decided to merge the two companies. Result: Garden of Memories Memorial Park and Life Plan, Inc., with an authorized capitalization of P35.5-million that was shortly fully paid up.

In 1999, they constructed a new wing with features no other memorial company had: A front court garden a mini waterfall and fountains. A Multi-Purpose Hall for memorial functions (another "first"). A display area for memorial products and keepsakes. An information center. A private counseling room. The new wing also had two memorial chapels, bringing the Garden's complement to ten.

Suddenly, at the Center of Things

Some people had said: "You have the right park in the wrong place!" In their minds, Pateros was still the remote, backward town known only for *balut*. But the new C-5 Road, linking the South and North Expressways, is changing that notion.

Suddenly, Pateros and Garden of Memories are at the very edge of the new center of Metro Manila, right beside Fort Bonifacio, touted as the global city of tomorrow. The garden is now just about 1-1/2 km. from the junction of C-5 and Kalayaan Ave. in Makati, some 4 km. from Ayala Center, 7 km. from Parañaque, and 6 km. from Marikina.

Soil to Silver, Silver to Gold

Garden of Memories is marking its 25th year, yet its people constantly endeavor to enhance the tradition of caring that they are now known for.

Not many of their heads have turned to silver, despite the passage of 25 fruitful years. But for those who dared share Tom Sanchez's big dream for their small town, the soil has indeed turned to silver. And, by the grace of God, another quarter of a century from now, some may even see the silver turn to gold.

OBITUARIES



The first modern memorial park between Parañaque and Marikina is the most elegant and now also most complete.

GARDEN OF MEMORIES marks Silver Anniversary today

PATEROS, Metro Manila; July 5, 2003 — A quarter of a century ago, the first modern memorial park in Pateros and Taguig took shape: Garden of Memories. Its Silver Anniversary gives us occasion to look back on those twenty-five eventful years.

Big Dream in a Small town

In the late 1970's, young Tomas S. Sanchez, Jr., saw that the antiquated cemeteries in Pateros and Taguig had become congested and unsightly.

And, ironically, while some old people abroad were coming home to be buried here, well-off residents were being buried in far-away Parañaque and Marikina. A big dream in a small town was born.



As you celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Garden of Memories Memorial Park & Chapels, you bring to the Lord not only your praises and gratitude but also your concerns and anxieties.

We are facing uncertain times. We have many reasons for being afraid. Although the world has become a small neighborhood because of globalization, we have not really become stronger in living out our world brotherhood. The peace situation of the world is fragile. The economy is not growing. Terrorism and violence continue to threaten us everywhere we go. We have only one reason for not being afraid: "I am with you, O Lord, and will not leave you." Let us celebrate the presence of God in our lives, with His love and the gift of His peace. May I celebrate with you in the peace of His love. Amen.



I extend my warmest congratulations to the management and staff of Garden of Memories Memorial Park and Chapels as you celebrate the Silver Anniversary on July 5, 2003.

If there is perhaps one character trait distinguishes Filipinos from people of other races, it would be their high sense of reverence for their family members who passed away. Honoring their departed loved ones does not end at the interment. At least once every year thereafter in a national day of prayer, families gather together and remember their departed relatives in a manner that is distinctly Filipino.

In this light, I am pleased to note of the continued success of the Garden of Memories Memorial Park and Chapels. For the past 25 years, it has been an invaluable instrument for preserving our time-honored tradition of respect for the departed. It is a place where we can find solace and comfort for our loved ones. It is a place where we can find peace and tranquility for our souls.

ESTER T. SALAHA
 Chairman

ATTY. GABRIEL T. AVETAN
 President



The events of 1978 remain so clear, it seems only yesterday. Yet, here we are today, twenty-five years later, celebrating the Silver Anniversary of Garden of Memories — a living testimony to those who who had said that a business corporation in Pateros or Taguig would never last more than five years.

The dream could have easily been forgotten, were it not for the support and participation of valued friends who had shared my vision. And, of course, the subsequent trust, which our *Katibuhayans* have so unhesitatingly placed upon us.

Although Garden of Memories began as a business idea, we have embarked on a mission to serve — from which there is no turning back. It is a mission that has led us to the present success of Garden of Memories.

EDITH T. SALAHA
 President

PROSPERO M. ALMEDA, JR.
 President



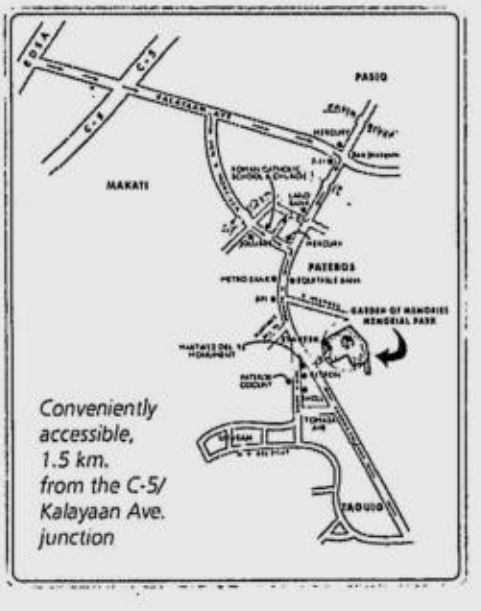
Looking back at the last twenty-five years of serving our clientele in the best "Tradition of Caring", we are amazed at the tremendous growth and development, which the Garden of Memories Park has achieved. We can only attribute this to the zeal and dedication, the spirit of sacrifice of the men and women who tirelessly worked with us for the success of our company.

But more than ever, we are grateful for the enthusiastic response of the many people who trusted in our sincerity to give the best quality amenities expected of an institution like ours. This trust inspires us all the more to strive for improvements that will enhance the quality of our performance.

As we celebrate our silver jubilee, we humbly give thanks to the Lord for His countless blessings. He has showed us the way through the years. We thank our staff who has stood by us and who have faith in us, giving us the strength to move forward.

ESTER T. SALAHA
 President

PROSPERO M. ALMEDA, JR.
 President



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Almario "Mar" Angeles, 59

Almario "Mar" Angeles, 59, of Parang, Marikina, passed away last Saturday, June 28, 2003.

Mar Angeles was the former Executive Vice-President & Finance Director of DY&R Alcantara. He was with SyCip, Gorres & Velayo prior his joining DY&R.

His remains lie at their family residence at No. 11 Sumulong Street, Parang, Marikina.

Interment will be on Saturday, July 5, at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after a 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Tanong Chapel in Tanong, Marikina.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

SCIENCE/HEALTH

Wanted: more blood donors

By Charles E. Buban

THE COUNTRY may have a sufficient blood supply but health authorities are concerned that this would not be enough during times of national emergencies.

There is also a need to have a more efficient distribution system nationwide so blood can be readily available even in remote areas of the country.

In celebrating Blood Donors Month, the Department of Health is reiterating its call for people to donate blood, saying that it can help save many lives.

"Donating blood every three months is not just healthy but will also help ensure safe and adequate blood supply," Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said during a bloodletting program at Robinsons Manila last Tuesday.

Dayrit said Metro Manila has an annual blood supply of 114,272 units, which is above the needed reserve to ensure a safe blood supply to patients needing transfusion.

The DOH is still consolidating its blood inventory in the national level.

Donated blood is used by hospitals to save patients suffering from shock, victims of accidents and major trauma, people with leukemia and hemophilia, and those undergoing surgery, childbirth and transplantation.

Distribution system

Tess Estrella of the DOH National Voluntary Blood Service Program, said that while the country, Metro Manila in particular, has an ample blood supply, "the challenge (is to) transport these blood to more places and create a more efficient distribution system."

In Metro Manila, blood can be sourced through 19 lead blood service facilities, composed of hospitals and medical centers. These are further beefed up by three Philippine National Red Cross centers in Manila, Quezon City and Rizal.



These networks are monitored by a clearinghouse at the Lung Center of the Philippines in Quezon City that keeps a blood census and identifies which hospital has a particular blood stock.

Estrella said this kind of network does not exist in other parts of the country.

Safety of donated blood

With so many blood-borne diseases that can contaminate the nation's blood supply, the safety of donated blood is another concern for the DOH.

Diseases like HIV/AIDS and hepatitis B and C can easily be transmitted to unsuspecting patients through transfusion of contaminated blood.

Dayrit is encouraging more people to donate their blood without monetary consideration.

"As long as there are paid blood donors, there will always be cases of blood-borne diseases," he said.

Dayrit said the safety of blood from paid donors is compromised because the primary motivating factor is financial gain and not helping others.

How to donate blood

Blood donation is easy as long as you weigh at least 45 kilograms, are well hydrated and has had plenty to eat.

The donor is asked to fill up a form which the blood collection officer uses to

inquire about the donor's medical history.

Estrella said this is the most crucial phase since the interview, which takes only about 15 minutes, must ensure that the donor only gives safe blood.

"The interview is important to protect both the donor and the patients who will receive the donated blood against any contamination or any adverse affects from the blood," she said.

A typical blood donor should be 16-65 years old and must weigh more than 45 kg (for a donation of 250 ml of blood) or 50 kg (for a donation of 450 ml of blood).

To ensure that the donor's hemoglobin (iron) level is high enough, a small sample of blood will be taken from the finger for testing. Hemoglobin count should be at least 125 g/l (12.5 g/dl).

Blood pressure should be 90-60 mmHg systolic and 60-100 mmHg diastolic.

The bloodletting takes five to 10 minutes.

The 450 cc of blood that will be drawn is about 7 to 9 percent of the blood volume of an average adult.

Donors should not worry about blood loss because it is replaced by the body within 24 to 48 hours.

Don't drink, smoke

Donors are advised to eat regular meals and drink plenty of fluids.

They must not smoke within the next two hours or drink alcohol within the next 12 hours since these may slow down blood production.

Donated blood is broken down to its components: red blood cells, platelets and cryoprecipitate.

Only a specific portion of the blood needed by the patient for a specific condition or disease is transfused and the remaining components are saved.

Red cell concentrates are the most widely used blood component because most patients requiring transfusions need their oxygen-carrying capacity. These red cells are mixed with a special solution to keep the cells alive and functioning.

Bloody facts

RED blood cells are perhaps the most recognizable component of our blood. They contain hemoglobin, a complex iron-containing protein that carries oxygen throughout the body and gives blood its red color. They are usually given to patients with anemia or blood loss.

Blood contains several other components including white blood cells, plasma, platelets and cryoprecipitate.

Here are some facts about them:

- Although white blood cells are outnumbered (about 1:600) by red blood cells, they are responsible for protecting the body from invasion by foreign substances such as bacteria, fungi and viruses.

- Plasma, the liquid portion of the blood, serves a variety of functions, from maintaining a satisfactory blood pressure and volume to supplying critical proteins for blood clotting and immunity.

- Plasma is used to treat burn victims and patients in shock from blood loss. It can be collected separately and frozen shortly after donation. It can be stored for up to one year and thawed just before use.

- Platelets help prevent massive blood loss and blood vessel leakage by sticking to the lining of blood vessels, thus sealing off the breaks.

- Platelets are most frequently given to patients whose bodies cannot make their own due to leukemia and other blood diseases. They can be collected separately but cannot be frozen for future use. They have a shelf life of only five days.

- Cryoprecipitate contains special factors needed for the clotting mechanism of the blood. This component is used to prevent or control bleeding in patients with hemophilia and von Willebrand syndromes, the most common inherited major coagulation abnormalities.

Charles Buban

Quakes, bats, science shows

SINCE our country is located within the so-called Ring of Fire, we experience quakes periodically—most are mercifully gentle that we barely feel them. Phivolcs recently found an innovative way to monitor quakes—through concerned community members themselves.

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua



ologists are now in Buruanga, Aklan, studying the ways of the bat, and hopefully, to encourage Filipinos to warm up to them. Bats have their uses, and Stefan Luft, a German wildlife biologist at the Philippine Endemic Species and Conservation Project (PESCP) in Libertad, Antique, enumerates some of them.

In Germany, engineers and researchers of Daimler Benz AG used the echolocation system of bats as a blueprint to build an automatic system which helps drivers of the luxurious Mercedes-Benz S-Class limousine to maintain enough distance from other cars.

British scientists also used bats as a model when they worked on a robotic system that was able to discriminate objects with different shapes and positions in space.

US Navy scientists, on the other hand, are working closely with bat researchers to improve navigation and detection device for missiles.

Most importantly, bats help in balancing ecological processes. They help control pests in plants, aid in the dispersal of seeds of valuable forest trees, pollination of flowers, forest regeneration, and so on. But with our forests disappearing, these bats will likely vanish, too.

Science centrum

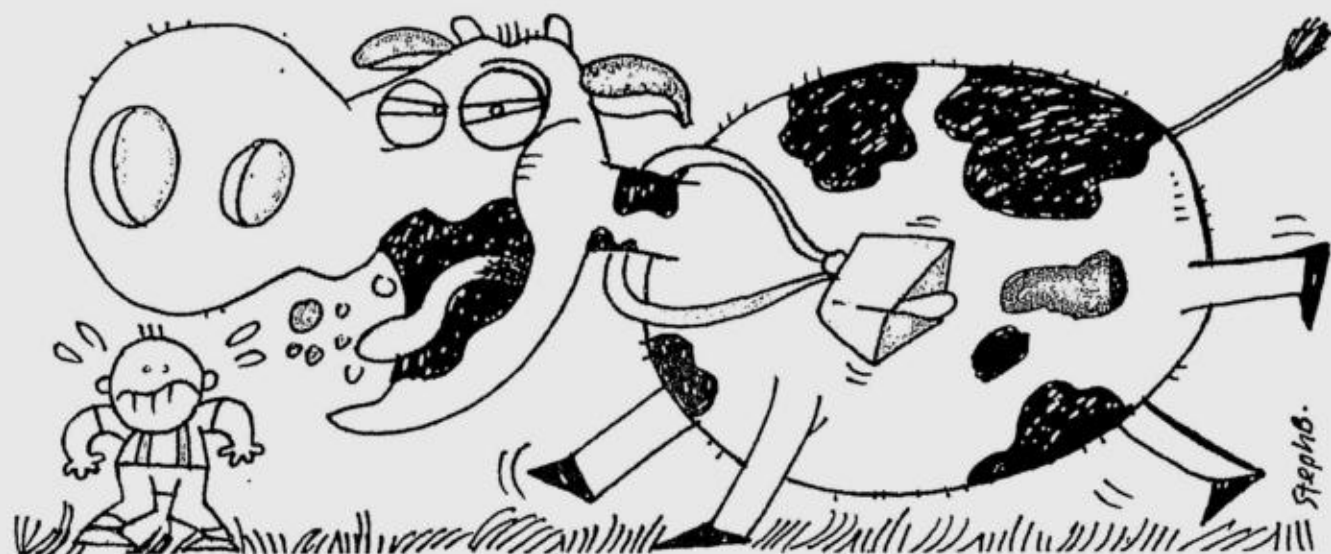
On a lighter note, we know that science can be most engaging (and instructive) if students manage to conduct experiments and experience the principles themselves.

The Manila Science Centrum has for years made these possible for schoolchildren in the area. Now it is traveling to Central Visayas, and is bringing with it opportunities for scientific discovery. The DOST and the Confederation of Scientific and Professional Organizations (Cospo) opened the traveling science centrum at the Mango Square Mall on General Maxilom Street, Cebu City, where it will stay from July 1 to Aug. 15.

Their brochure states: "Fostering a dynamic learning and teaching process, Adventures in Discovery features a selection of interactive hands-on exhibits that presents various scientific concepts on electricity and magnetism, liquids, mechanics, sounds, lasers and optics, among others. It also showcases an array of exciting and educational activities such as the Chemistry Magic Show and film showings, enriching the learning experiences of the viewing public."

The exhibit is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Saturday. For reservations, call Jeah del Castillo of Cospo at (032) 231-7008 or 416-2753.

(Contact the author at blessbook@yahoo.com.)



Don't let the cows burp

DISCOVER



Massie Santos Ballon

IN CHILDREN'S stories, cows are portrayed as gentle creatures with soulful brown eyes. Recent media coverage, however, is trying to destroy that image by directly linking them to the greenhouse effect.

We've all read how atmospheric gases like carbon dioxide and methane and water vapor trap the sun's heat and prevent it from being released into the vast expanse of space, thus raising the temperature of the planet and causing glaciers to melt and ocean levels to rise and eventually cover various landmasses.

Think of Charlene Gonzales in the 1994 Miss Universe competition when she was asked how many islands made up the Philippines and she asked if the judges meant at high tide or low tide. If the greenhouse effect becomes a permanent part of life, there will never be a low tide again.

The top five greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide (would it be as effective an anesthetic at the dentist's clinic if people knew how bad it is for the environment?), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Carbon dioxide accounts for over 80 percent of the greenhouse gases and has a life span of 120 years, so getting rid of it is not an easy task.

Methane is second on the list of most prevalent greenhouse gases but has a life span of only 10-12 years. Thus, part of the Kyoto Protocol involves significantly decreasing methane emissions to make the environment happy.

Methane from cows

This is where cows come in. There are about a billion cows on Earth, which is equivalent to a full sixth of the world's human population. Cow respiration and belches are responsible for an amazing 20 percent of the total methane in the atmosphere.

To put it another way, they make about 100 to 150 gallons of methane a day alone, or the equivalent of 120 liters of gas (I can't tell you if it's unleaded) a year.

Think of how much energy could be harnessed instead of being set free to slowly kill us all.

But don't blame the cows, blame their diet.

Apparently cows in Europe don't produce as much methane as those from New Zealand, where politicians are discussing a cow-belching tax to fund research to end the problem.

Maybe it's because 99 percent of the euros in Germany are laced with cocaine. Then again, maybe it's explained by the fact that 99 percent of the euros in Germany are laced with cocaine. (You can look this story up on the Reuters website.)

Reducing emissions

At any rate, researchers are working on finding a way to reduce methane emissions in cows.

One group of researchers, led by biochemistry professor Stephen Ragsdale of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, has spent the past three years trying to find a food additive that can block methane formation in the rumen, or the first of the cow's four stomachs.

If the methane isn't formed in the rumen, the cow can't let it out. This is not an easy task, since the enzymes in the rumen can't be harmed by the food additive or else the cow's health could be at risk.

Their goal is to reduce the methane by 4 percent, which doesn't sound like much, but every little bit helps when it comes to saving the environment.

And since around 15 percent of a cow's energy is devoted to the production and release of methane, that 4 percent decrease means the cow eats less and produces the same amount of milk, which makes the farmer happy because it lowers his costs.

Professor Ragsdale says they've tried out 200 compounds so far, although none on real cows. They've found a handful of additives that will do what they want, and plan to test the substances on termites and sheep, who also emit methane, before giving them to the cows.

Flatulence tax

If only they could do the same research in New Zealand without resorting to taxing the owners of the animals causing the problem.

Apparently the land of four million people, 45 million sheep and 10 million cows is talking about making farmers pay what's being called a "flatulence tax," although cows don't release the methane from that end.

Tom Lambie, president of Federated Farmers of New Zealand, argues that all New Zealanders and not just farmers should be subjected to the tax. He's also said the food additive idea hasn't been successful before, and that changing the cows' diet would increase livestock feed costs, and possibly even affect the flavor of their products.

Either way, vegans and vegetarians must be rejoicing at finding yet another advantage to their cause. Alas, killing a billion cows won't make the world a better place.

(The author may be reached at massie@massie.com.)

Combination drug offers hope for colorectal cancer patients

By Charles E. Buban

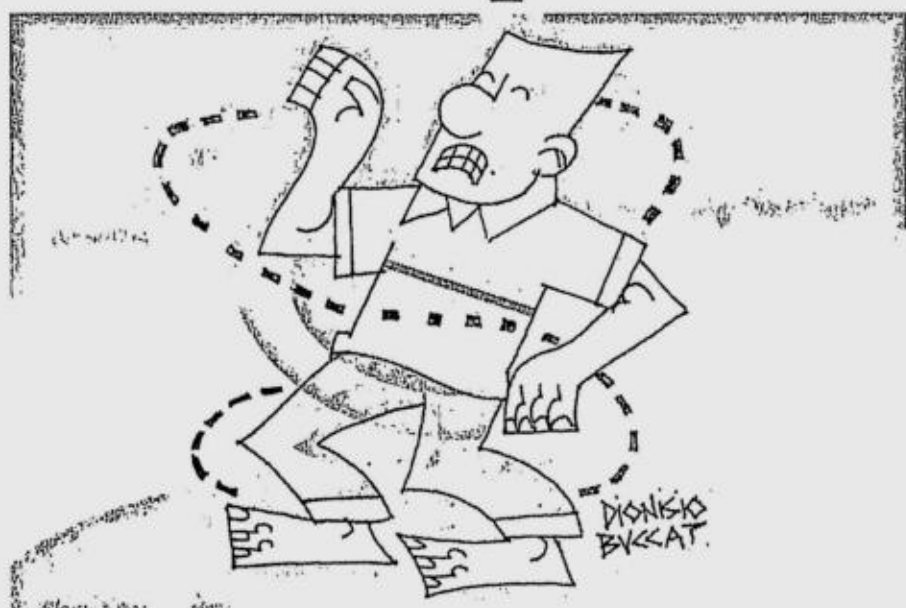
ONE of the biggest problems of patients who have undergone surgery for colorectal cancer tumor is the high possibility of recurrence. Although 80 percent of patients have no residual tumor after surgery, 30-40 percent suffer a relapse and ultimately die from the disease caused by malignant cells that have spread to other parts of the body.

"Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide with about 900,000 new cases diagnosed each year," said Dr. Emilio Abello, Makati Medical Center's medical oncology section head.

He said this type of cancer is most common among men and women aged 50 or older, and the risk increases with age, with 93 percent of cases diagnosed in people over 50.

Mosaic study

Results of a new study presented during the 39th annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology last month showed that the risk of colon cancer recurrence is reduced by 23 percent among those who underwent surgery for their tumor and who took the drug oxaliplatin in addition to postoperative chemotherapy.



The Multicenter International Study of Oxaliplatin/5FU-LV in the Adjuvant Treatment of Colon Cancer (Mosaic) was a large and randomized trial supported by a grant from Sanofi-Synthelabo which enrolled 2,246 patients in 20 countries.

Previously, the standard post-operative treatment for colorectal cancer was a six-month use of 5-FU (5-fluorouracil) and LV (leucovorin).

Mosaic demonstrated that adding oxaliplatin to this treatment significantly reduced by 23 percent the number of relapses or deaths after initial surgery.

Dr. Priscilla Caguioa, Cancer Institute president of St. Luke's Medical Center, said the study was done in the hope that even patients with early stage, localized disease may

benefit from the new drug combination.

Among the drug's side effects noted during the trial were neutropenia, or decrease in white blood cells, and numbness in the fingers.

Partial or total recovery from the disease was observed in almost all cases within a period of six months following treatment.

Abello and Caguioa, who attended the meeting, said many cases of colorectal cancer could be prevented if everyone aged 50 years or older had regular screening exams.

"Screening is the best way to find polyps or growths in the colon or rectum and to remove them before they become cancerous," said Caguioa.

Kids who snore tend to have low grades in school

IF YOUR child is performing badly in school, it may not necessarily be due to his lack of intelligence. It could be due to his snoring.

According to a new study by German scientists, children who snore perform worse in school.

"Our study clearly showed that snoring has a detrimental effect on children's performance in school," said Christian Poets, head of a joint study by the University of Tuebingen and the Hanover Medical School.

The study matched the findings of scientists at the University of Louisville in the United States, who presented research last month showing that children who snore were more likely to have problems with learning and behavior than those who do not.

German scientists monitored the sleeping behavior of 1,144 schoolchildren aged between 8 and 10 in the western city of Hanover, measuring their pulse rates and blood oxygen levels.

The study showed that children who snored continually were three to four times as likely as nonsnoringers to get poor marks in math, spelling and elementary sciences.

The research showed that snorers had more variable pulse rates, and Poets suggested this led snorers to wake up more tired than other children, making it harder to concentrate.

"We believe the interruptions to sleep caused by snoring affect school performance," Poets said.

In the US study, researchers found that snoring alone in the absence of

any disease is associated with increased risk of cognitive problems in children.

Louise O'Brien, a researcher at the University of Louisville's pediatrics department, suggested that problems like hyperactivity or subpar verbal ability in children who snore may be due to sleep disturbances and occasional lack of oxygen from the snoring.

Snoring is prevalent in an estimated 12 percent of children. Some have a condition known as obstructive sleep apnea, in which airways become obstructed and breathing can stop several times a night.

Sleep apnea is already known to raise the risk of childhood learning and behavioral problems, but it was not known whether snoring alone increased the risk.

In the sleep-laboratory study of 118 children, aged 5 to 7, the snorers performed significantly worse on tests of attention, language abilities and overall intelligence.

"We don't yet have enough information to know which children who snore are vulnerable to these problems. More work needs to be done to understand snoring in children, and how it affects learning and behavior," O'Brien said.

Research has shown that children with sleep apnea who are treated by having their adenoids and tonsils removed will experience improvements in learning, but it is not known whether children who snore but don't have sleep apnea can be helped with treatment, the researcher said.

Reuters

KIDNEY DISEASE

Are you at risk?

KIDNEY failure is a serious disease that can kill.

"Before total failure, however, the kidney begins to fail little by little," says Dr. Dinna Cruz, a kidney specialist at St. Luke's Medical Center.

Says Cruz: "During the earlier stage of kidney disease, the patient is usually free of symptoms: no pain, dizziness, no vomiting, no feeling of weakness, no loss of weight, no nothing. Some people might go to the bathroom a little more frequently, especially at night, but most do not find this any cause for concern. High blood pressure may also be a sign of kidney disease, but many people pay little attention to it. That is why kidney disease goes undetected until it is too late. It is usually discovered in a routine urine or blood test."

Study findings

A study conducted by the Renal Disease Control Program on more than 2,600 adults showed that over 10 percent had significant abnormalities in their urinalyses. Another 10 percent had abnormal findings on ultrasound of their kidneys, including approximately 2.5 percent who had kidney stones.

In addition, almost 10 percent of individuals who had a blood test for kidney function had varying degrees of impairment and 2 percent had markedly weakened kidneys.

"According to this study, as many as 87,000 adult Filipinos who reportedly have no symptoms whatsoever already have severe impairment of kidney function, and are in danger of kidney failure, which is really quite disturbing," says Cruz.

"We need to increase awareness of kidney disease among both the general public and health personnel to diagnose these people in a timely manner. When kidney disease progresses to the stage where 85 to 90 percent of function is lost, the only options left are dialysis and kidney transplant. Both of these are expensive options."

The main job of the kidneys is to clean the blood. They filter waste, or urea, and excess fluids from your blood each day. This way, they maintain the chemical balance the body needs to stay healthy and alive.

According to Cruz, symptoms of more advanced kidney disease include puffiness around the eyes, swelling of the hands and feet, nausea, vomiting, a loss of appetite, weakness, increasing tiredness, itching, muscle cramps (especially in the legs) and anemia (a low blood count).

Who are at risk?

Chronic kidney disease is often a complication of diabetes and hypertension. Anyone who has either condition should visit his doctor regularly and carefully follow the prescribed treatment to control blood sugar and blood pressure. He should have regular blood and urine tests to see if his kidneys have already been affected.

"People with first-degree relatives who have hypertension, diabetes or chronic kidney failure are also at increased risk," says Cruz. "According to the National Kidney Foundation (in the United States), they should be screened to delay or prevent the development of chronic kidney disease. Screening includes a blood pressure check, a urinalysis and a blood test for creatinine and hemoglobin."

Creatinine is a waste product that comes from the normal wear and tear on the body's muscles. Creatinine levels in the blood can vary depending on age, sex and body size. A creatinine level of more than 1.2 for women and more than 1.4 for men may be an early sign that the kidneys are not working properly.

Too much protein in the urine is another sign of abnormal kidney function. Protein is normally retained in the blood, but when the kidneys' filtering units are damaged, variable amounts of protein can leak into the urine.

A urine test for microalbumin is an even more sensitive test for kidney disease.

Microalbuminuria means that the kidney has some damage, and is starting to spill some albumin (a kind of protein) in the urine. Microalbuminuria is the first sign of diabetic kidney disease.

"Your doctor will want to keep a closer eye on you if albumin is detected in the urine because there is the possibility of more serious kidney damage in the long term," says Cruz.

Everyone with diabetes who is between 12 and 70 should have a urine test for microalbuminuria.

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

VALENCIA, Spain—It was quite a challenge getting here to attend a medical meeting. One must really be physically fit and have a steady set of nerves before embarking on a long-haul trip. It can be pretty stressful especially if luck is not on your side.

I could almost predict right from the start that it was going to be a hassle-laden trip. I almost missed the flight in Manila because of the terrible traffic. I was the last passenger to check in.

Then I missed my connecting flight from Madrid to Valencia. I was so engrossed writing this column that I was completely oblivious of our departure time while I was at the passenger lounge. I didn't even hear the frantic paging of my companions—Egay Espino of AstraZeneca and fellow cardiologists Vic Velez and Mayette Crisostomo.

Thanks to the remnants of the Spanish I learned in high school and college, plus the exaggerated motions I made with my hands, I was somehow able to communicate with the non-English speaking lady at the Iberia Airlines counter and she kindly booked me on another flight.

Lost luggage

But that was not the end of my travails. My luggage got lost somewhere and as of this writing, I have not been reunited with it. They must have off-loaded it in Madrid when I missed the flight, and now it appears to have disappeared into thin air.

The situation tested my survival instincts on how to make do with a pair of clothes and underwear, which fortunately my wife, Becky, had trained me to always put in my hand-carry.

Last night, I even attended a coat-and-tie gala dinner, thanks to the modern-looking eccentric getup Vic and Egay helped me innovate. My colleagues' reassurance that my attire was not at all inappropriate for the affair somehow made me feel better, but the more they kept on reassuring me, the more I felt it was really fashionably weird.

The gala dinner was one feast I would have hated to miss. It was set in a vast 18th century estate amid hectares of Valencia



orange mangroves. The graceful Spanish ballerinas gracefully tap-dancing and swaying to traditional Flamenco music was a soothing balm to my frayed nerves.

My body seemed to tolerate all the stress my travel misadventures gave me. My jet lag isn't all that bad. Somehow that made me feel I'm physically fit, which by some stroke of fate coincides with the article on exercise and physical fitness I had originally set out to write for this week's Medical Files. It was the article I was writing when I missed my plane in Valencia.

Aging effects on the brain

Since I'm just a little more than a decade away from being a senior citizen, it is comforting to note that three key areas of the brain adversely affected by aging show a large benefit when a person stays physically fit. And scientists have actually documented this through brain scans.

A study published in the Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences was the first to show—through high-resolution magnetic resonance imaging—anatomical differences in gray and white matter between physically fit and less-fit aging humans.

Gray matter consists of thin layers of tissue of cell bodies such as neurons and support cells that are critically involved in learning and memory. White matter is the myelin sheath containing the nerve fibers that transmit signals throughout the brain. After age 30, these tissues shrink in a pattern closely matched by declines in brain function.

The study authors, led by Prof. Arthur R.

Kramer of the University of Illinois, said the findings provide the first empirical confirmation of the relationship between cardiovascular fitness and brain-tissue degeneration as had been predicted in previous studies.

In 1999, Kramer and his colleagues reported in the journal Nature that previously sedentary people over 60 years who walked rapidly for 45 minutes three days a week could significantly improve their mental-processing abilities that decline with age.

Women benefit more

A second Kramer-led study published in Psychological Science suggested that older women, especially those on hormone replacement therapy, benefit more in terms of brain function than men from increased physical activity as they age.

The meta-analysis (comprehensive data review) of 18 previous studies done between 1966 and 2001 and involving hundreds of participants with ages 55 and above found that fitness training had "robust but selective benefits for cognition, with the largest fitness-induced benefits occurring for executive-control processes."

The fitness of the study participants ranged from sedentary to very fit, competition-ready athletes. Fitness was measured by results of one mile of walking and treadmill stress tests.

Three-dimensional scans of the participants' brains were done. Researchers, applying a sophisticated type of measurement, estimated tissue atrophy in targeted regions of the brain.

Better cognitive ability

Other findings from the meta-analysis: • Exercise programs involving both aerobic exercise and strength training produced better results on cognitive, or mental, abilities than either one alone.

• Older adults benefit more than younger adults do, possibly because older adults have more to gain as age-related declines become more prevalent.

• More than 30 minutes of exercise per session produce the greatest benefit, a finding consistent with many existing guidelines for adults.

So if you want to age gracefully and cope with life's stresses, then one effective way would be to shake a leg and exercise regularly.

ASK THE DENTIST

Paul R. De Castro, DMD

Whitening root-canaled tooth

MY TOOTH got very dark because it was root canaled. It does not hurt anymore but it pains me to look at it because it's ugly. I tried brushing it with whitening toothpastes. My dentist told me that I could get a crown to whiten it. Is there another way?

Bong S.

bleach that can be applied inside your tooth and then sealed in. In two days to one week, your tooth will get whiter.

There are some teeth that can't be sealed and some patients who want instant whiteness. In this case, a bleach can be put inside the tooth and in six minutes the tooth whitens.

I have done both procedures and the patients were very satisfied with the results.

(E-mail your questions at dentalqs@yahoo.com.)

BUSINESS

LRTA to adopt stiffer procurement measures

By Abigail L. Ho

MORE stringent procurement measures will be put in place at the Light Rail Transit Authority to prevent another episode of legal battles that this government agency is currently facing.

Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza told reporters that while the current procedure for the procurement of equipment and services for various LRTA projects was already stringent, stricter measures would have to be adopted to plug all possible loopholes in the process.

Former Metro Manila LRT Consultants (MMLRTC) deputy general manager Roberto Gualberto last week filed with the Office of the Ombudsman two counts of graft against LRTA administrator Teodoro Cruz Jr., LRT Line 2 project manager Enrico Garcia, LRT Line 2 assistant project manager Elmer Surbano, MMLRTC project

manager Masaharo Takano, and Sumitomo Corp. project manager Makoto Awakihara.

Gualberto accused these people of approving overpriced equipment and services contracts that cost the government around P218 million.

Among the overpriced contracts, as cited by Gualberto in his complaint, were the LRT Line 2's management information system, that allegedly cost P43 million higher than the price of other systems of the same specifications, and a P175-million rail grinding machine that was not even necessary.

"The LRTA Board will have to take notice of this development. More stringent measures will be put in place," Mendoza said.

A week after Gualberto filed the complaint, however, Cruz and the other defendants said they were also preparing to file criminal charges against the LRT's former consultant for tainting their reputation and that of the agency they represented.

They said the existing equipment procurement procedure was so stringent that it was "impossible (for him and the other accused) to get approvals for equipment acquisition just like that."

According to standard operating procedures, a contractor is tasked to do the canvassing of equipment, while the MMLRTC and the LRTA project management offices are tasked to do the checking of the equipment's technical specifications and prices.

The MMLRTC then, as a consultant, makes a recommendation to the technical working group (TWG) and to the variation order and price escalation committee (VOPEC). This recommendation is then either approved or denied by the LRTA executive committee and the LRTA board. The documents are then submitted to the Japan Bank for International Cooperation for its concurrence.

Mendoza said additional mea-



MENDOZA

sures would have to be set up to complement the existing procedure. He, however, did not elaborate.

Despite the legal issues that the LRTA is currently facing, he said phase two of the LRT Line 2 would start operations within the first semester of next year.

"Let them settle their respective cases in court," he said.

9 firms told to name independent directors

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has found nine publicly listed companies that failed to appoint or disclose the appointment of independent directors to their boards.

The SEC said it had already prepared letters asking these companies to appoint or elect independent directors to their boards in accordance with a provision of the Securities Regulation Code. The letter will be sent to the nine companies next week.

At the same time, the SEC will direct the concerned companies to show cause within five days why they should not be held liable for violation of the SRC.

Records of the SEC showed that Pacific Inc., Asia Amalgamated Holdings, Ever Gotesco Resources and Holdings Corp., Wellex Industries, APC Group Inc., Araneta Properties Inc., MRC Allied Industries Inc.,

Universal Rightfield Property Holdings Inc., and Leisure and Resorts World Corp. did not disclose the names of their independent directors in violation of Section 38 of the SRC.

This SRC section provides that publicly held corporations should have at least two independent directors or such independent directors that constitute at least 20 percent of the members of the board, whichever is lesser.

An independent director refers to a person other than an officer or employee of the corporation, its parent or subsidiaries, or any other individuals having a relationship with the corporation who could interfere with the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the responsibilities of a director. The SRC requirement for independent directors in a listed company's board is aimed at helping improve corporate governance in the country.

BIR tapped to help probe use of fake electric meter seals

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission has tapped the National Bureau of Investigation's help in uncovering and apprehending the source of fake electric meter seals and test results.

This was in the light of the rampant use of fake electric meter seals and the proliferation of fictitious meter test results.

In a statement, the ERC said its chair Manuel Sanchez had also met with suppliers of electric meters to seek their support in the drive.

Records from the ERC's consumer affairs service show that requests for meter testing significantly dropped in the last six months, which officials attributed to the use of fake seals and reports.

Under industry rules, electric meters should be inspected and sealed by the ERC before they are used by consumers.

Legario Galang Jr. of the ERC said that the agency averaged between 5,000 and 6,500 meters tested and sealed per month between January and October 2002.

This dwindled to an average of about 370 meters a month be-

tween November 2002 and May 2003.

The ERC quoted meter dealers as saying that the proliferation of fake seals and reports was due to the increase in testing rates and the lack of ERC inspectors.

"The higher fees could be one of the reasons, but we are seeking the help of the NBI to confirm and to (check the illegal practice),"

Galang said in an interview.

He explained that utility firms and meter dealers used to pay P10 in testing fees. Now they are charged P20 and P60 for every single-phase meter (the type used by residential and commercial users), respectively.

Industrial users used to pay P20 for each poly-phase meter (the type suited for their consumption level), but this was jacked up to

between P60 and P600.

Galang said requests for meter testing started to dwindle when the new rates were imposed.

Sanchez, for his part, assured the meter dealers that the ERC would study their request to lower the fees and beef up the number of inspectors.

The ERC chief earlier said the agency was earning P150 million a year partly from such fees.



Mr. Eric Alberto, the new CBG Head talks during the Shops.work launch.



L-R: Mr. Amado Bagatsing - PLDT Board of Director, Mr. Manny V. Pangilinan - PLDT President, Mr. Manuel Siggaoat - Philippine Retailers Assn (PRA) Chairman & Ms. Nerissa Ramos - PLDT Business Solutions VP.



Shops.work



L-R: Mr. Manuel Siggaoat - Chairman of the Philippine Retailers Association, Ms. Bing Limjoco - President of the Philippine Franchise Association, Atty. Miguel Varela - Honorary Chairman of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mr. Manny V. Pangilinan - PLDT President & CEO and Mr. Samie Lim - Chairman of the Philippine Franchise Association during the Shops.work launch on May 15, 2003 at the Grand Ballroom, Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati.

PLDT's Shops.work revolutionizes real-time networking

"Can I have a beer, please?" asks the gentleman. "Sure, Sir," says the waiter. "Just place your ID here near the scanner." With a soft beep, the gentleman's name appears on the LCD monitor of the POS (point-of-sale) unit.

The girl manning the POS system then keys in the gentleman's order through the touch-screen LCD. A slip of paper indicating the gentleman's order comes out of another machine. Upon presenting the slip of paper to the waiter, the gentleman finally receives his beer.

This was repeated many times over as guests ordered their drinks. Bar scene? Not quite, this time. It was the launching of a new service called Shops.work, and the Corporate Business Group was just demonstrating the power of real-time communications to some of the country's multi-branch retailers and franchise owners.

"There's no better way to show how Shops.work works than by getting each of our invitees to try out this solution even just in a cocktails party setting like the one we had," said Ernesto R. Alberto, PLDT Corporate Business Group Head.

Four drinks stations were set up in the Grand Ballroom of Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati. These represented four branches of a retail chain and were networked and connected to a computer near the stage area that acted as the Headquarters.

During the program, comedian-singer Arnel Ignacio, who hosted the event, demonstrated this real-time networking solution with the help of a projector screen, which served as the backdrop of the stage. Sales and inventory information appeared on-screen.

As orders were placed in each of the branches, the numbers were also updated automatically in Headquarters. Information on each of the items—beer, vodka, gin, softdrinks, juice, etc.—as well as purchases information on invited clients were all transmitted to headquarters real-time.

And so during the program when the supply of softdrinks reached their critical inventory levels, the spotlights were immediately on the waiters who delivered additional softdrinks cases to replenish the supply.

"It's a simple and graphic representation of how a real-time solution like Shops.work can really help the retail and franchising industry," said Alberto.

Shops.work is the first networking solution in the country designed for retailers. This solution links all the stores or shops of a particular company, enabling it to electronically manage business transactions. This is made possible with the use of various PLDT managed networking and managed access products such as Brains IP VPN (Broad and Robust ATM and IP networking solutions-Internet protocol, virtual private network), RAS (Remote Access Service), DSL (Digital Subscriber Line), etc.

While most retail companies such as those in the fashion and fast food industries have software solutions for their sales and inventory systems, their data transmission procedures are not real-time.

Nerissa S. Ramos, head of Business Solutions under CBG, said the launching of Shops.work would paint a brighter future for retailing and franchising in the country.

"We're very excited about the prospects of this revolutionary solution. It's revolutionary in the sense that real-time solutions for companies with many



Mr. Samie Lim delivers his congratulatory speech.

branches have not been made more cost-effective and affordable before. Only very big companies could afford them until Shops.work came around," she said.

Manuel Siggaoat, Chairman of the Philippine Retailers Association, averred that such a solution could elevate the retail industry to a higher level.

"The retail industry can always use another solution like Shops.work. As we move on in the 21st century, we need to be equipped with the proper technologies to survive and be more competitive," he said.

"Shops.work," said Philippine Franchise Association Chair Samie Lim, "can benefit franchise owners, too. That's because it allows them to act on opportunities swiftly. And opportunities, when acted on swiftly,

can only multiply and turn into bigger opportunities."

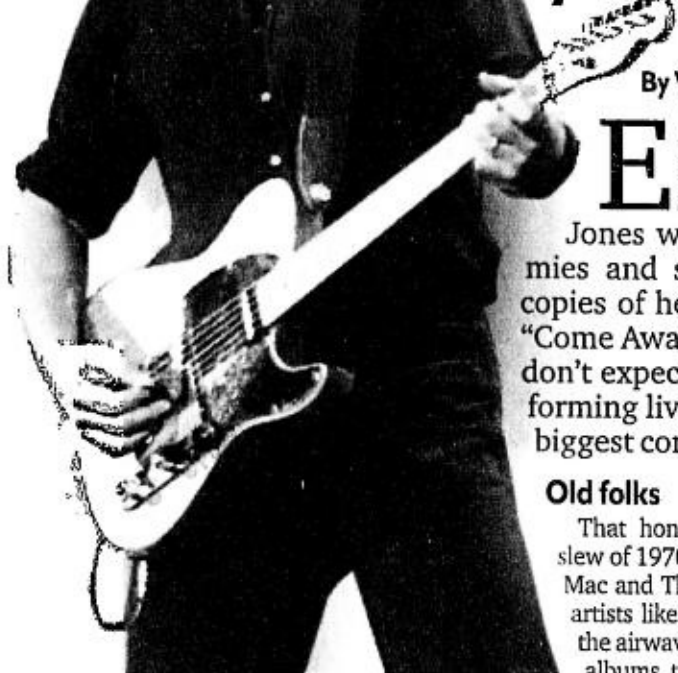
Ma. Alegria Limjoco, President of the Philippine Franchise Association, also believes that franchising can benefit from Shops.work.

"What we need," she said, "is a tool to improve efficiency, speed up the decision-making process with regard to sales and inventory, and enable us to plan for the future better. Shops.work can help us satisfy this need."

Shops.work is a new addition to PLDT's arsenal of products and services under the PLDT Business Solutions brand. PLDT hopes to enlist some of the country's biggest names in the retail and franchise industries as clients before the end of the year.

SATURDAY Special

SPRINGSTEEN.
His concerts
continue to
draw SRO
crowds.



'70s stars top box office

By Wayne Parry

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey—Norah Jones won eight Grammys and sold six million copies of her debut album, "Come Away With Me." But don't expect to see her performing live at the nation's biggest concert venues.

Old folks

That honor is reserved for a slew of 1970s acts like Fleetwood Mac and The Eagles. While new artists like Jones, 24, dominate the airwaves and sell millions of albums, the old folks are clean-

ing up at the box office.

Last summer, five of the top 10 grossing tours were artists who came of age in the '70s, including Billy Joel, Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Aerosmith, Neil Diamond and The Eagles. Three others were acts that debuted in the '60s: Paul McCartney, The Rolling Stones, and Cher. Creed and The Dave Matthews Band rounded out the top 10.

"Not everyone likes hip-hop, just like not everyone likes heavy metal or whatever else," said Rick Nielsen, the ballcap-wearing lead guitarist for Cheap Trick, whose 30th anniversary is next year. "Why do you still listen to Beatles stuff? It's just good stuff. Jimi Hendrix sells more records now than when he was alive."

Concert album

Peter Dinklage, whose 1976 concert album "Frampton Comes Alive" has sold more than 16 million copies, said fans of '70s rock still want to see their heroes live.

"There's more of us at this age group," he said. "We are the baby boomers, and our audience has followed us all the way through. It's also because there was a lot of good music in the '70s. Those bands were good then, and they're still good now." AP

Last summer, five of the top 10 grossing tours were by artists who came of age in the '70s

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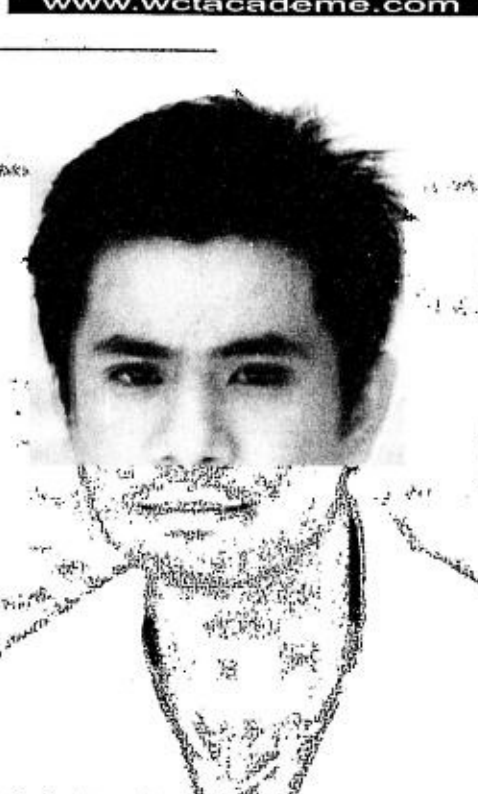
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Malnutrition among Senior Citizens

How is Lolo? How is Lola?

1st of 5 parts

When asked about Lolo and Lola, Filipinos talk about their seniors with much fondness, not realizing that they could be demonstrating signs of a problem that is difficult to notice -- malnutrition.

What is Malnutrition?

Malnutrition is defined as any nutritional disorder caused by insufficient, unbalanced, or excessive diet, or by the impaired absorption or assimilation of nutrients by the body. Just when you thought malnutrition was a condition diagnosed in children, now even senior citizens can be quietly suffering from it.

In the United States alone, 1 out of 4 senior citizens is malnourished. It has been estimated that up to 55% of seniors admitted to hospitals are suffering from malnutrition.

The Causes

Trouble chewing and/or swallowing
Poor dental health, an irritated throat or some other medical condition will surely reduce food intake.

Diminished sense of taste and smell
Upon reaching the senior years, one's sense of taste and smell begin to deteriorate. Taste buds dull to salty and sweet so food tastes bland reducing desire to eat. Those who wear dentures may also lose sensitivity to sour and bitter tastes. Food choices become limited, so do preferences.

Ageing is a process as complicated and as challenging as growing up. The stages can come fast or slow but key to everything is knowing what to expect and how to cope.

Help your loved ones celebrate ageing year after year while staying well-nourished, healthy and happy.

Prevent malnutrition. Consult your physician on effective ways to provide Lola and Lolo better nutrition through Ensure - the complete and balanced oral meal replacement.

Physical problems as a result of a disorder or an illness Tremors from conditions such as Parkinson's disease or physical limitations after a stroke make eating difficult.

Emotional state If you observe Amang or Inang to be distant or somewhat depressed, these are natural reactions to the changes taking place (whether it be physical, physiological, emotional or mental). Understand that these feelings affect appetite a great deal.

Dietary Restrictions Your parent who has diabetes or heart problem may have low calorie-protein intake.

Tatlong bagay na di dapat
kalimutan para sa
maayos na trabaho:
Break, break, at break.



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Masarap sa breaktime

Love & Romance at GREENBELT this June

GREENBELT 1

ArtFilm, Greenbelt 1: Punchdrunk Love (Adam Sandler)
on June 18 to July 1

Coffee club discussion: June 18, 7pm at Cinema 2, Greenbelt 1

Watch the series of MONOLOGUES with Epi Quizon, Angel Aquino
and Pinky Amador and piece these stories together.

GREENBELT 1 Monologues and MAGIC June 18, 7 pm at the Café Row
June 25, 7 pm at DellFrance Area.

GREENBELT 2 Monologues and SERENADES July 2, 7 pm

GREENBELT 3 Monologues and THEATER DUETS July 3, 7 pm



Jodie Foster remains private and elusive

By Ronald G. Mangubat

At the tender age of three, Jodie Foster taught herself how to read. A few years later, when she was already starring in commercials, she developed a photographic memory.

Homework

Instead of socializing, her free time was devoted to homework and extracurricular reading. In high school, while most of her classmates struggled to master French grammar, Jodie took Italian as well and was soon fluent in both languages.

She graduated at the top of her class and was accepted by Yale. In 1984, she received a bachelor's degree in literature, specializing in African-American literature, graduating *magna cum laude*. At the age of 30, she became the CEO of Egg Pictures, her own production company.

In the book: "Foster Child: An Intimate Biography of Jodie Foster by her Brother," Buddy Foster and journalist Leon Wagener explain why the two-time Oscar best actress (for "The Accused" and "Silence of the Lambs") has often been described as a genuine intellectual.

They depict her as a highly cerebral person, advanced for her age, fiercely independent, with an adult approach to everything.

Insider's account

Unlike most biographies, which rely on second-hand materials, this 320-page book is an insider's intimate account of the life of Jodie Foster—from her stormy childhood to her emergence as one of Hollywood's youngest power brokers.



FOSTER. Graduated at the top of her class.

Despite her imperfections, the book gives a vivid account of how a simple woman with extraordinary talent continues to shun the superficial trappings of show business and commits herself to a life of the mind.

Jodie's first ticket to worldwide fame was via the Martin Scorsese hit "Taxi Driver," where she played a 13-year-old hooker. The controversial role earned the ire of civic organizations, and she was subjected to a battery of psychological tests, which she passed with flying colors.

"Intellectually, I'm an adult, but emotionally, I'm equal to my years," she said. "I felt so good after seeing

myself in "Taxi Driver" that I no longer wanted to be president of the United States. I wanted to be an actress!"

Wealth

But in spite of all the fame, Jodie never neglected her academic life. While she accumulated a lot of wealth from acting in movies, she never got excited about material things. Her brother describes her apartment as nothing more than a room with a big TV screen, books and a bed.

In the '90s, Jodie tested her mettle through the two films she directed—"Little Man Tate" and "Home for the Holidays." Her brother says these films are her very personal statements about her childhood and family life. The former delves into the emotional turmoil that a child genius undergoes, while the latter is about the struggles of a middle-class, dysfunctional family. The book says directing suits Jodie's ambitions and personality because she is so decisive and willful.

In spite of all her achievements, she goes through periods of depression. As for her relationships, the book discusses Jodie's links to Peter O'Toole, Martin Scorsese and Robert de Niro. But these are all told from the point of view of a brother who merely observes his sister from a distance.

Even to close family members, the brilliant Jodie Foster remains private and elusive.



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Best Cinematic Breakthrough (Bjork) - Online Film Critics Society Awards
Best European Feature & Best Actress - European Film Awards

Bjork Catherine Deneuve David Morse

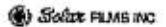
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THE HUNTED R13 12:40, 2:40, 4:40, 6:40, 8:40, 10:40	MUNTING TINIG (SMALL VOICES) - GP 12:15, 2:45, 28 DAYS LATER - R18 5:15, 7:40, 10:00	CHARLIE'S ANGELS: FULL THROTTLE PG13 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
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Chinovelas heat up the ratings race

By Nestor U. Torre

NOW that Channel 2's "Meteor Garden" is being challenged on the tube by Channel 7's "My MVP Valentine," viewers are comparing the two Taiwan-produced teen soap operas. Which show will end up on top of the ratings race in the coming weeks?

Trend

"Meteor" has the edge, since it started the trend. Another advantage it has is the fact that its male leads, the F4, have a number of hit songs, which contribute to their overall popularity.

But "MVP" has a big plus point going for it in its focus on basketball. Since the Philippines is basketball-crazy, this is a major advantage for the Channel 7 show.

To date, however, "MVP" hasn't really come up with exciting basketball sequences, fancy court plays, etc., so this advantage hasn't been exploited to the hilt. We trust that this will happen soon, or else "Meteor" could be difficult to beat.

Ruminative

On point of characterization, the guys in both shows are pretty much even. Most of them are

moody instead of charismatic, and go in for slow, ruminative and "sensitive" poses, instead of a dynamic performing style.

After a while, this can become enervating for viewers, which is why we're grateful for the fact that the female characters on "Meteor" are portrayed in a more assertive and spunky way.

Unfortunately, the lead actress on "MVP" is more traditionally passive, acquiescent and "martyr."

On the whole, therefore, "Meteor" enjoys an edge over "MVP" on a number of counts.

Crucial

Still, if "MVP" eventually energizes its basketball scenes, it could quickly cut down "Meteor's" advantage. The next few weeks will be crucial in the two shows' "duel" for top ratings.

An unfortunate result of this intense competition between the two "Chinovelas" is the overplugging that they're getting on the newscasts of Channels 2 and 7. Practically everyday, the newscasts feature "news" about the two shows, in a determined effort to jack up their popularity.

This is a reprehensible practice because there's no place for self-

serving plugs on newscasts, which are supposed to feature only objective news reports. Sadly ABS-CBN and GMA have become so competitive that even their news personnel, who know better, have allowed themselves

and their shows to be used for plugging purposes.

Plugging game

We understand why this is being resorted to, but we wish that the channels' news people get up the

nerve to refuse to play the plugging game, because it erodes their objectivity and lowers their standing in the perception of viewers.

Let the channels' entertainment people push their shows in different venues, but not on

newscasts. Without objectivity, newscasts lose their credibility with viewers, who end up suspecting that subjectivity may be compromising newscasts' other reports, not just those in the field of entertainment.



F4. Moody instead of charismatic.

Musical tribute to OFWs

EXPERIENCE the beauty of Filipino music as star performers offers a musical tribute to our OFWs, today's unsung heroes. The "No Place Like Home" concert will be held at 7 tonight at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

New songs

Catch Dulce, the April Boys, Gino Padilla and Kyla as they belt out new songs promoting Filipino values.

With them are Karen Timbol, Michael Laygo, Gilbert Golez, Lloyd Zaragosa, Efren Malaki, Gary Cruz, Joy Isabel and Sarah Balabagan.

The concert will have inspirational diva Jamie Rivera and Lloyd Umali as guest artists.

The songs performed in the show are recorded in an album with the same title.



DULCE. Joins other singing stars in performing songs that promote Filipino values.

Unity

The 13 songs are about unity, heroism, love, and tourism. Proceeds will go to the OFW Family Club, the special children of the Philippine Special Olympic Foundation, and the Philippine Christian Academy of Antipolo. Call 934-3010.

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*20% discount on Food & Beverage charges if it rains for at least 3 hours. Rate is subject to service charge and applicable government taxes. Prior reservations required and is subject to availability. Proof of Philippine residency is required upon check-in. Offer is valid until September 30, 2003 (except August 10-16). Mactan Island Resort is in Punta Engaño Road, Lapu-Lapu City 6015, Cebu, Philippines. For DITCebu Permit No. 298 Series of 2003.

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2 THE HUNTED	28 DAYS LATER	28 DAYS LATER	28 DAYS LATER	28 DAYS LATER
MGA MUNTING TINIG 28 DAYS LATER	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE	PIGLET'S BIG MOVIE
CHARLIE'S ANGELS FULL THROTTLE	THE HUNTED	THE HUNTED	THE HUNTED	THE HUNTED

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3 (DOOLBY)	28 DAYS LATER
4 (DOOLBY)	THE HUNTED
5 (DOOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6 (DOOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
7 (DOOLBY)	THE HUNTED
8 (DOOLBY)	MUNTING TINIG
9 (DOOLBY)	DUMB & DUMBERER
10 (DOOLBY)	PIGLET THE MOVIE

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	RESERVE
2	THE HUNTED
3 (DOOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4 (DOOLBY)	THE HUNTED
5 (DOOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6 (DOOLBY)	THE HUNTED
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Maragana Cinema
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1	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
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3	THE HUNTED

starmall Movies
(Mandaluyong) tel 724.4986

1	28 DAYS LATER
2	DUMB & DUMBERER
3	MUNTING TINIG
4 (DOOLBY DIGITAL EX)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM

METROPOLIS
(Alabang) tel 850.4285

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3	28 DAYS LATER
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5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

M. Star
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PREMIERE
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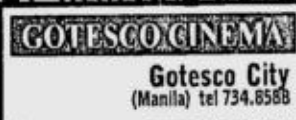
1	THE HUNTED
2	THE HUNTED
3	THE HUNTED

Sunshine
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Farmers Plaza Cinemas
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1	CLOSED
2	CLOSED



Gotesco City
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4 (DOOLBY)	DUMB & DUMBERER
5 (DOOLBY)	28 DAYS LATER
6 (DOOLBY)	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
7 (DOOLBY)	THE HUNTED
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Gotesco Caloocan
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3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
8	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
9	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Gotesco Grand Central
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3	28 DAYS LATER
4	THE HUNTED
5	DUMB & DUMBERER
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
8	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
9	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Gotesco Commonweal
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2	THE HUNTED
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
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9	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

Gotesco Ortigas
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2	DUMB & DUMBERER
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
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Universal
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1	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
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2	28 DAYS LATER
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4	28 DAYS LATER
5	DUMB & DUMBERER

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1	THE HUNTED
2	THE HUNTED

Berma Cinema
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2	THE HUNTED

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
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2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
3	DUMB & DUMBERER
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6	THE HUNTED
7	28 DAYS LATER

MALL CINEPLEX 7
tel 911.3101 loc. 821.8242/8400

1	MUNTING TINIG
2	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
3	DUMB & DUMBERER
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
5	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
6	THE HUNTED
7	28 DAYS LATER

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-5001 TO 03

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2	SOUL KEEPER
3	THE HUNTED
4	BROTHERHOOD OF THE WOLF

Cine Nepo Mall
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2	WILLARD
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	THE HOURS



Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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1	TUMITIBOK TIBOK
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	THE HUNTED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	THE HUNTED
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
4	SO CLOSE

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biliran) tel (049) 411.1146

1	THE HUNTED
2	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
3	SO CLOSE
4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS

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(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

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3	THE HUNTED
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2	DAYO
3	THE HUNTED
4	SO CLOSE

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Lianas Cinema
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3	THE HUNTED
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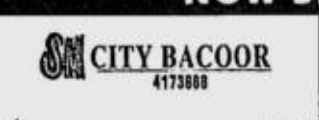
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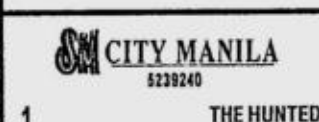
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10	ANG TANGING INA
11	TUMITIBOK, KUMIKIROT
12	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2



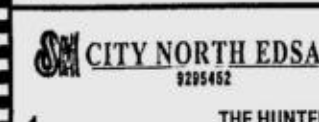
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6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	MGA MUNTING TINIG
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11	ANG TANGING INA
12	DUMB & DUMBERER



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9	ANG TANGING INA
10	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
11	DANCER IN THE DARK
12	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM



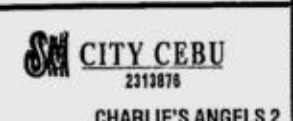
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6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	28 DAYS LATER
8	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2



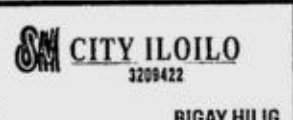
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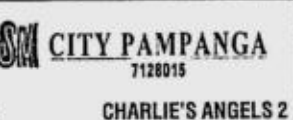
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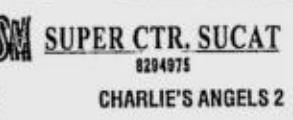
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6	HULK
7	CLOSED
8	CONFESSIONS OF A ...



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3	THE HUNTED
4	WISHMASTER 4
5	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
6	HULK



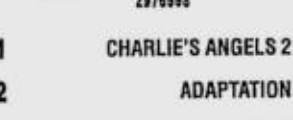
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2	HULK
3	THE HUNTED
4	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM



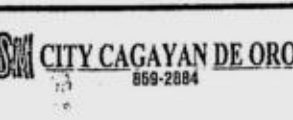
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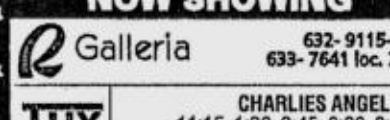


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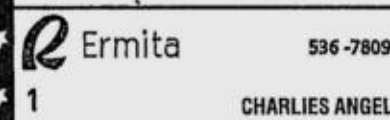


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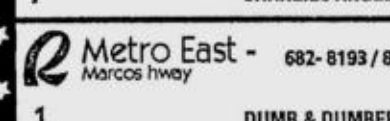
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9	DANCER IN THE DARK
10	HULK



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6	PIGLET'S
7	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2



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3	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
4	THE HUNTED
5	28 DAYS LATER
6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS 2
7	HULK</

Why Ingmar Bergman's masterpieces continue to inspire viewers, actors

By Leia Torre

INGMAR Bergman is one of the cinema's most innovative directors. He is widely recognized as one of the few directors who "made films that changed the way the world looks at motion pictures," according to Roger W. Oliver, a professor of drama and liberal arts at the Juilliard School and New York University, and editor of the book, "Ingmar Bergman: An Artist's Journey."

Comprehensive look

It offers a comprehensive look at the artist's work, and features essays,



BERGMAN. Compares artistic expression to hunger.

interviews, and opinions of and by people whose lives have been touched by the filmmaker.

The book reveals its subject to be unique, because the Swedish director has a long-standing reputation for surpris-

ing his audience with each of his movies. He does not have a particular "style" or "technique."

This stems from the likelihood that any "directing style" attributed to Bergman came about because of a particular movie that he was making, and not the other way around.

Own manager

Bergman himself offers his own answer to the question, "Why is Ingmar Bergman a director?" His answer: "I compare artistic expression to hunger. . . It grew stronger the lonelier I grew. It goes without saying that film became

INGMAR/C6

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Ali 4	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
Ali 5	THE HUNTED
Ali 6	CHARLIE'S ANGELS
Ali 7	28 DAYS LATER

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Singing tilt moves to GMA-7

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST year, Regine Velasquez hosted the "Star for A Night" singing tilt on ABC-5. This year, the competition has moved to GMA-7, still with Regine as host, but with a new title, "Search for A Star." The new program made it bow on the TV screen two Saturdays ago with pretty much the same features. The major difference is the fact that it now fields three instead of four contestants each week.

Good move

This is a good move, since the contestants now have more time to make an impression on viewers and judges. And the winnowing-down process must perform better more stringent, which is a good thing in these *pasang-awa*, overly accommodating and pressure-prone parts.

But for this stricter set-up to work, the people who choose the contestants who finally make it to the weekly competitions have to be very good at their job. Judging from the very uneven quality of the first week's contestants, that level of expertise hasn't been all that conclusively proven.

That first show came up with a good balladeer, but he didn't win. Instead, the judges' nod went to a dusky 14-year-old-belter who had a good, textured voice but deficient musicality, and resorted to standard "singing gestures" that went out in the 1960s.

We tried to figure out why she was chosen, despite the flaws in her performance, and we surmised that the show's preference for young female singers who can more productively be built up into stars was at work. Also, the balladeer with the suave voice and natural performing style *did* have a hard time with a couple of high notes, so...

However, we must credit the show



VELASQUEZ. Supportive of neophyte talents.

On the other hand, the experienced male singer on the board of judges did come up with more judicious comments, but for the most part he concentrated on being funny. He was good at it, too, but could have been more helpful as a judge, which was his major task that night.

Audition process

As for the third judge, we gathered that he was also involved in the audition process, so his being on the weekly competition's board of judges as well imbues him with double responsibility and power that may not be fair to assign to only one person.

In other words, it might be better to distribute that power between more people, so that the show can have a stronger system of checks and balances.

What about Regine's hosting? She was supportive of the neophyte talents, which was good, but she still kept asking, "Are you nervous?"—which after all those months of hosting her previous singing tilt, sounded unimaginative and old-hat. Let's all move on and improve on our previous work, shall we? And Regine needs to be more judicious about her gowns and hairstyles.

Finally, the new show's format and staging was simpler than "Star for A Night" (no more dancers and over-long make-over montages), and the more straightforward approach is most welcome. However, the premiere telecast was also rather lackluster, so more entertaining touches are in order.

Above all, the show will succeed or fail depending on the level of performing talent that its contestants display. So more stringent selection of weekly contestants, please.

for including a male contestant on its very first week, unlike "Star For A Night." That previous show fielded young female singers exclusively until it was pointed out that this was unfair to male singers. After all, they could be every bit as good, and had as much right to shine as their female counterparts.

Male contestant

With its inclusion of a male contestant right off the bat, "Search for A Star" shows that the people behind it are capable of learning from past experience, and criticism.

As for the level of judging, it could definitely be improved. The female member of the board of judges kept saying nice things—which is sweet of her, except that it doesn't help the contestants improve, which is the point of the judges' "constructive criticism" in the first place.

Why Ingmar Bergman's . . .

From page C5

my means of expression. I made myself understood in a language beyond words, which failed me; beyond music, which I did not master; beyond painting, which left me indifferent. "I was suddenly able to correspond with the world around

me in a language spoken literally from soul to soul, in phrases that escaped the control of the intellect in an almost voluptuous way. "With the hunger of a child, I seized upon my medium and for many years, tirelessly and in a kind of frenzy, I supplied the

world with dreams, intellectual excitement, fantasies, fits of lunacy. . ."

The hunger that Bergman speaks of is that which he felt when he was a child, and which he thinks all of us feel: the hunger to be recognized, to have one's existence acknowledged. It's no wonder then that his films have seldom failed to make an impact on viewers.

Some of his fellow directors have ventured to offer their own opinions about Bergman: Woody Allen starts off by quoting some of the lines from Bergman's autobiography, "The Magic Lantern," which most vividly highlight the filmmaker's tumultuous family background.

Genius

Allen then goes on to say: "With this kind of background, one is forced to be a genius. Either that, or you wind up giggling behind locked doors in a room, the walls of which have been thickly upholstered by the state."

On the filmmaker's work, Allen has this to say: "I divide his movies into ones that are merely superb and the truly remarkable masterpieces."

Bergman preferred to work with a limited set of actors, because it was easier for him to make them share in his vision and help bring it to fruition on the screen. They include Liv Ullman, Erland Josephson, Max Von Sydow, Gunnel Lindblom, Eva Dahlbeck, and Bibi Andersson.

Inspiring

To the seemingly innocuous question of where the director sits when shooting a scene, Ullman answers: "He sits very close to the camera. You feel him very much, and if he is not close to the camera, you tend to act toward him. He is terribly inspiring."

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MTRCB Rating: **Restricted 18 (R-18)**

Miranda was screened at the 2002 Sundance Film Festival.

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ROBEN	BOLD STAR
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TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	MGA BABAE SA VIP ROOM
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
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CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-8	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CHARLIES ANGELS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	28 DAYS LATER
CINEMA-12	DUMB AND DUMBERER
CINEMA-14	THE HUNTED
CINEMA-15	MUNTING TING
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
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CINEMA 3	ALAB NG LAHI
CINEMA 4	SEN. LAC
UNIWIIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PAHANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

Mayor Sonia's legacy

"Hands-on," that's Mayor Sonia's style as a municipal executive.

Management style

"I was a corporate CEO for a long time," she explains. "More or less, that's my management style." Now on her second term, she still runs the town like a company—or to be exact, a topnotch

farming cooperative.

"Each department is empowered," she remarks. "And I make sure that the people are, too. I regularly go out and discuss with their concerns with them."

Mayor Sonia's vision of an empowered populace is not just empty rhetoric. She has, in fact, initiated the flourishing San

Isidro Anti-Poverty Program, which seeks to attain "equity-led sustainable development" in all areas, from housing to cooperative farming, from women's livelihood to youth training activities.

She has even incorporated anti-drug and environment-friendly waste management modules in

the program.

Wholistic approach

Its Integrated Cooperative Farming System, she elaborates, is a wholistic approach to win the war against poverty. "It seeks to maximize the resources, as well as the potentials of the farmer." (To be concluded)

SHE relates, half-jestingly, that she was able to maintain her dainty figure through her constant trips up and down the stairs of the municipal hall. Politics (and public service) sure beats aerobics!

Indeed, Mayor Sonia R. Lorenzo, of the bucolic town of San Isidro in Nueva Ecija, is one executive who's always on the go, not

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

content to simply stay cooped up inside the four walls of her office.



LORENZO. Always on the go.

'Family Values 2001 Tour' suffers from under-representation

By Noelani Torre

THE COVER of the latest album to be released under the rocking Family Values Tour label, "The Family Values 2001 Tour" (Elektra), is a pseudo-'50s cartoon of a father administering capital punishment.

Founders

It's meant to be ironic, as The Family Values Tour has always been, as its founders put it, "largely recognized as the rock world's most coveted gig."

And you can't be more non-wholesome '50s than Stone Temple Pilots, Linkin Park, Staind, Static-X, and Deadsy.

The third installment in a thus far wildly successful series (the 1998 and 1999 tour albums both went platinum), the "2001 Tour" still pales in comparison to its juicier and meatier older incarnations.

Album

We speak of the album, of course; the tour itself, from all accounts, rocked, and was even pronounced "The Hottest Tour of the Year."

The album, however, suffers from under-representation and, with only 12 tracks, is unsatisfactorily meager.

The listing includes four tracks from Stone Temple Pilots, three from Staind, two each from Linkin Park and Static-X, and one from Deadsy.

Bias

STP seems to be over-represented, but as they're more or less rock legends already, this bias is perfectly understandable. However, we would have liked to hear more from Linkin Park and other, newer bands. The tour, after all, is all about what's new in rock.

Perhaps this disappointingly short listing can be explained by the inclusion of bonus video footage from the tour, but that proved to be as skimpy as the audio tracks, so it doesn't make up for the leanness.

In previous tours they'd released separate VHS/DVD/VCDs, something which they could have continued doing, instead of trying to squeeze everything in one CD, which resulted in a very incomplete picture of the 2001 Tour.

Footage

The footage included was nothing special—Staind's Aaron Lewis doing "Black" and getting a tattoo, Static-X putting on their make-up and clowning around on scooters—and that's it.

They already included Lewis' "Black" in the track listing, so they could've chosen something else. Besides which, the take itself was unimaginative—there's only one angle on Lewis all throughout. The camera doesn't move at all, and it's not as if there was anything interesting about the stage, which was unexcitingly dark.

Favorite track

Nevertheless, we did enjoy listening to the album, even though it was, as we say here, *bitin*. Our



THE CARTOON image on the album's cover is meant to be ironic.

favorite track would be Stone Temple Pilots' "Wonderful," which featured Linkin Park's Chester Bennington.

It's not as highly energetic as, say, Static-X's raging "Push It" and some might say that it doesn't really belong in this collection, but we enjoyed its quite intensity, and the maturity is a good contrast to the leaping hormones apparent in the other songs.

Collaboration

There's some collaboration going on here, which is one of the attractions of a live album. After all, where else can you hear Staind's Aaron Lewis blending his vocals with Stone Temple Pilots' or Linkin Park's?

Deadsy's P. Exeter Blue collaborating with Static-X on "Push It" isn't quite that memorable, however, though the song itself will leave a burning trail 'round your aural nerves.

Different texture

Lewis seems to be a favorite—he's in five of the tracks, all in all—in STP's "Creep" and Linkin Park's "One Step Closer," as well as in his own band's. His Pearl Jam cover, "Black," is another favorite of ours, as a matter of fact. We liked the song already when Eddie Vedder first did it, but Lewis has a cool, distinctive voice that gives the song a different texture.

The album is more or less representative of that year's star attractions in rock, STP then having just released their fifth album, "Shangri-La Dee Da," and both Staind and Linkin Park going platinum, outselling every other rock album.

Contemporary American rock

It's also a nice slice of contemporary American rock, though it may be too thin for most fans.

We didn't find a single track objectionable—which is why we were hoping there was more. The variety of bands, each with their own characteristic sound, makes for a blend that could have been truly explosive, if only there were more of the raw ingredients. As it is, we only get a tantalizing, but ultimately unfulfilling taste.

Still, we hear that they're about to go on tour again this year, and for the sake of those who can't catch them live, we hope the producers give us more in the fourth album than they did in this third one.

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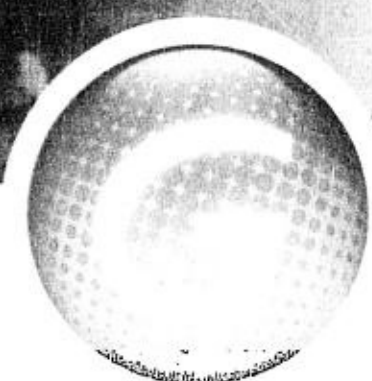
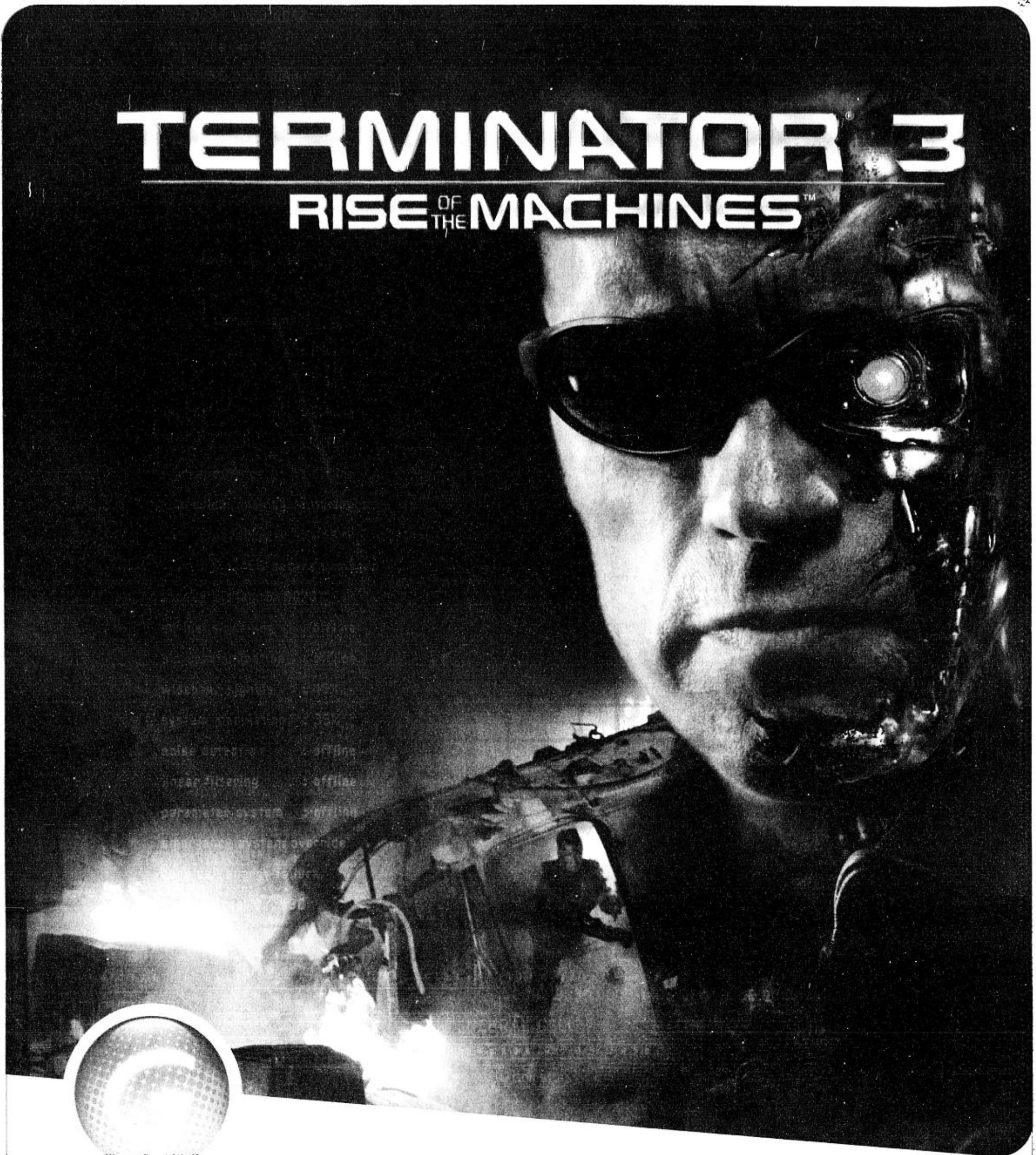
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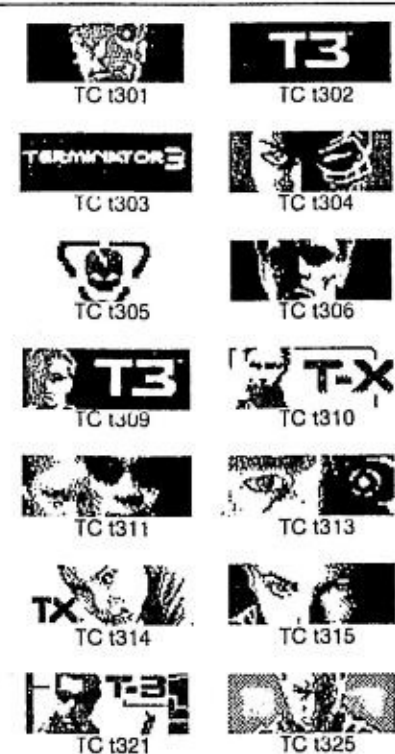
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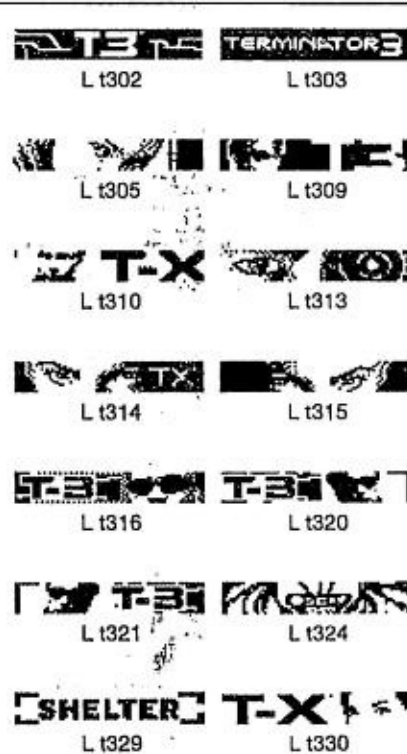
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SATURDAYS

Beyonce's star glows even brighter as she releases first solo disc

KNOWLES, Reaching the level of Jennifer Lopez?



With the release of 'Dangerously in Love,' she's moving into a celebrity stratosphere so luminous that even she is a bit nervous about it

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

NEW YORK—With millions in album sales, Grammys, more than a half-dozen hit singles, a blockbuster movie and A-list endorsements, it's hard to imagine how Beyoncé Knowles' star could get much brighter.

Yet with the release of "Dangerously in Love"—Knowles' first solo disc apart from the megagroup Destiny's Child—the 21-year-old is moving into a celebrity stratosphere so luminous even she is a bit nervous about it.

"It's getting worse," says Knowles in her husky, Southern-accented voice. "The more movies and TV shows I do, the more people know me, so it's harder for me to go anywhere."

Autographs

"It takes getting used to—everywhere you go, you have to sign autographs."

She'll have to make the adjustment, given the early success enveloping the project. She's got a Top 10 hit on the Billboard charts with the album's first single, "Crazy in Love," and the album, on Columbia Records, is on pace to debut on the top of the album charts next week.

In addition, she's starring with Cuba Gooding Jr. in "The Fighting Temptations," due out in the United States in September, her first film since her turn as the high-flying Foxy Cleopatra in last year's "Austin Powers in Goldmember."

She's even becoming a one-named wonder: she simply uses the name Beyoncé (pronounced BEE-yon-SAY) on the new album.

"I think she's become the superstar that we all expected she would be," says Rick Krim, a vice president of VH1, which featured Knowles on its recent "Divas" concert; her powerhouse performance of the ballad "Dangerously in Love" brought down the house.

Krim says Knowles is reaching the level of a Jennifer Lopez, whose celebrity cuts across different genres, including film and music.

"When you combine the musical talents and the success, you can spread that success to other movies," he says. "I think it broadens your appeal and takes you to a whole another level."

Knowles' stardom has long eclipsed that of her two groupmates, Michelle Williams and Kelly Rowland.

Brief diversion

Still, she insists that her solo career is just a brief diversion in the juggernaut that has become Destiny's Child, one of the most successful girl groups of all time.

"I'm going to do another Destiny's Child album, regardless if I sell no-million, one million, five million or however million," she says. "The only way I won't do it is if Destiny's Child is no longer friends—no other reason, because I love them and I love being in the group."

Besides, father Matthew Knowles, the manager of both the group and Knowles, says: "I don't think any one of their solo careers will be bigger than Destiny's Child."

Knowles is the last member of the multiplatform trio to release a debut album. Williams put out a gospel album, "Heart to Yours," and it sold a little more than 100,000 copies, a success in the gospel arena; Rowland sold about 500,000 copies of her "Simply Deep."

Knowles' disc was supposed to be released last fall, but she decided to push it back so Rowland could capitalize off of the success of her chart-topping duet with rapper Nelly, "Dilemma."

Disappointed

"At the time, I was kind of disappointed," she says. "But everything happens for a reason, and I really know that, because if I would have put my album out then, it would have sounded a little more different."

The end result is an album with a retro sound and a sensual, more romantic feel than anything she recorded with Destiny's Child, even though she co-wrote and produced many of their hits.

"All of the songs I wrote for Destiny's Child were usually so strong—and that's a good thing—but sometimes people lose touch with you being a human," she says. "I wanted people to know that I'm strong, but I can fall in love, I can get hurt, I can feel like I need someone, and everything every other woman goes through."

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Death of a screen legend



HEPBURN. Never-ending battle with producers.

By Behn Cervantes

KATHARINE Hepburn is dead. Ms Hepburn, or Cantankerous Kate to her detractors, has been called a legend, an icon and an incomparable star. Right on all counts!

System

Hepburn was a Hollywood "intruder" who expected the system to change according to her demands. She made her own rules and expected powerful studio owners to follow her dictates. It was a never-ending battle.

She was the first newcomer who came to Hollywood with a specific contract reserving the right to approve script, director, co-stars, cameraman and costume designer.

Shocked Hollywood bigwigs had never come up against the likes of Ms Hepburn, the Connecticut heiress from exclusive Bryn Mawr. Despite initial protestations, they were cowed by her determination, character and artistic integrity.

Artist

After she decided to become an actress, Katharine poured all her

energy into improving herself as an artist. Before long, Broadway beckoned, so she went to conquer the stage—although, at one point, bitchy Dorothy Parker declared that her acting range went from A to B.

Never bothered by the opinions of those she did not consider important, Hepburn chose her roles with great daring. She was the envy of other Hollywood stars like Bette Davis, who coveted her distinctly classy looks, accent, and manner of dressing.

She was the epitome of brains and beauty on screen, the emerging strong woman who would demand liberation in due time. Her feminist advocacy she learned from her mother, who was an original Suffragette and one of the moving spirits who founded her Alma Mater.

Hepburn's mother was a Haughton heiress who married the intellectual Dr. Hepburn. He invented, among others, the tungsten filament in electric bulbs, from which the already wealthy Kate collected copyright

DEATH/D3

Angel Locsin and Railey Valeroso have a lot in common

By Jocelyn Valle

ANGEL Locsin and Railey Valeroso, who play lovebirds Charley and Icko on Channel 7's teen series, "Click," have a lot in common. For starters, they have "angelic" names: She's Angelica Colmenares and he's Angelo Valeroso in real life.

Sports

They love sports and used to be varsity players in high school—Angel for UST's swimming team and Railey for UP's basketball squad. They are determined to go back to school to finish a business course (though Angel swears she'd rather take up criminology—if she could convince her dad).

Angel and Railey are the first (and so far the only) members of their families to venture into show business. Four years ago,



VALEROSO AND LOCSIN. Both discovered at a mall.

Angel, then only 14, was running an errand when an advertising agent spotted her at a mall.

ANGEL/D3

Audience empowerment

WE'RE heartened to note that, in the past few months, more members of the entertainment audience have become aware of their rights, and have been making their voices heard in the very crucial campaign to improve the output of local show biz.

This is an important component in our collective effort to become more discerning and demanding, so the industry will either be encouraged or compelled to live up to its commitment to provide balanced entertainment that inspires and strengthens, rather than corrodes society.

Let's call this movement Audience Empowerment, and we hope that you will become a part of it. All you have to do is regard entertainment not as harmless fluff, but as a potentially powerful force for instilling both good and bad values, especially in young, vulnerable viewers.

Next, survey the entertainment you're exposed to, and decide which shows you like, and which you don't.

Then, make your views known to the producers of those shows by writing or calling them, and to the public as well by writing letters to newspapers.

Effusively praise the shows you find worthwhile, so its producers will be heartened to keep doing good work. And complain about the shows you deem excessive, insufficient, irresponsible, ex-

plorative, youth-unfriendly, etc.

It's important to detail why you aren't happy with the erring shows, so its producers can make the needed changes. We assure you that, if enough people complain, positive changes are bound to be made.

Start empowering yourself now.

Movies on TV

On HBO: Saturday, July 5, 11:45 a.m., "The Age of Innocence." Sunday, July 6, 11:45 a.m., "Rock Star." 3:30 p.m., "Rugrats in Paris." 4:30 a.m., "Little Shop of Horrors." Monday, July 7, 6:30 p.m., "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." 11 p.m., "The Golden Child." Tuesday, July 8 at 10 p.m., "Six Feet Under." 11:55 p.m., "Sleepless in Seattle."

Wednesday, July 9, 11 p.m., "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar." Thursday, July 10, 4 p.m., "Best in Show." 11 p.m., "Cats and Dogs." 2:30 a.m., "Invasion USA." Friday, July 11, 1 p.m., "The Climb."

On the Cinemax channel: July 5, 11 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: Hanging by a Thread." 5:15 p.m., "The Bonfire of the Vanities." 9 p.m., "3000 Miles to Graceland." 4 a.m., "The Screaming Room: The 10 Scariest Films Ever Made." July 6, 6 a.m., "Black Moon Rising." 12:30 p.m., "Mission Impossible, 2." July 7, 6 a.m., "A Place in the Sun." July 8,

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



2:30 p.m., "The Three Words of Gulliver." 5:30 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: Explosive Effects."

July 9, 6 a.m., "This Property is Condemned." 4 p.m., "Mr. Deeds Goes to Town." 9 p.m., "Strictly Ballroom." July 10, 10:15 a.m., "Do the Right Thing." July 11, 5:30 p.m., "All the Pretty Horses."

On Star Movies (all screenings at 9 p.m.): July 5, "The Other Side of Heaven" (a 19-year-old missionary faces frightening odds



GARCIA. Plays the leader of a drug syndicate in his latest starrer.

in his effort to convert native Indians). July 6, "Taken" (the first episode in the new sci-fi series about alien abduction, produced by Steven Spielberg).

July 7, "Addicted to Love" with Meg Ryan, Matthew Broderick and Kelly Preston (two people dumped by their respective partners find happiness together). July 8, "Antitrust" with Ryan Phillippe (a company's brutal business tactics prompt an expose).

July 9, "Total Recall" with Arnold Schwarzenegger (recurring dreams about a mysterious woman on Mars prompt the film's protagonist to travel to the red planet). July 10, "Legends of the Fall" with Brad Pitt (a family of pioneers is first changed then destroyed by various forces).

July 11, "Bollywood Calling" (an American B-movie actor is paired with an old Indian star, only to become a superstar himself).

Auditions

Ryan Cayabyab, The Music Studio announces auditions for Children's Chorus Class (8-13 years old) and Female Chorus Class (14-19) at 1 p.m. on July 12 at The Music Studio at Sunvar Plaza, Pasay rd. corner Amorsolo st., Makati City. Classes start on July 19. Call Irene at 844-3330.

Ivi's 'Floriade'

"Floriade," an exhibit of new paintings by Ivi Avellana-Cosio, is



GARCIA. Performs with Rico J. Puno in "Memories Onstage."

ongoing at Le Soufflé Bistro, Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Ruby Road, Ortigas Center, Pasay City. The exhibit is on view during dining hours until July 31. Call 636-1614.

Three villains

Ace veteran actor Eddie Garcia takes on another villain role as the leader of a drug syndicate in Viva Films' latest action film, "Masamang Ugat."

To add to the movie's menacing mood, Victor Neri also plays a vicious *kontrabida* in the film directed by Willy Milan. Victor portrays Eddie's similarly evil son, the half-brother of the characters played by Mikey Arroyo and Ace Vergel, whom he wants to kill (he doesn't know that they're his

blood brothers).

Speaking of Ace, he also plays it mean and deadly in this production, where he's cast as a hitman who wants to take Eddie's crime lord character down.

"Masamang Ugat" also stars Al Tantay and Maui Taylor.

New season

"Mutant X" (series 2) starts its new season today (11 p.m. on Star World). The action series chronicles the adventures of a team of human mutants possessing extraordinary powers as a result of genetic engineering. The series is shown every Wednesday at 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., and every Thursday at 2:30 a.m. and 11 p.m.

'Memories Onstage'

Rico J. Puno sings once more with Ybeth Garcia in "Memories Onstage" at Greenbelt at 9 p.m. on July 8. Their repertoire includes the greatest hits of the '70s, in English and Tagalog. Tickets available at Ticketworld 9891-5610 and Movin Up Productions (528-1378).

Billiards championship

The championship of Elbow Room's first nine-ball Fun Tourney will be held tonight. Elbow Room is an upscale billiards bar at the fifth level of The Podium Mall, ADB ave., Ortigas Center. Call 634-1404. The tournament is sponsored by Vive Cuervo.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM JULY 5 TO JULY 11

7/5	7/6	7/7	7/8	7/9	7/10	7/11
6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7:30 Buttercup 9:00 Arriba, Arriba 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 To Be Announced	7:00 Salomonson Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow! Malit 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Search for a Star 6:30 Imbestigador 7:30 Idol Ko Si Kap 8:30 Kakabakaba 9:30 Blockbuster Cinema 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse Smiles Sense of Snow 11:00 PGMA	5:00 National Basketball League 7:00 Global Family Series 7:30 Kioscelera 8:30 Amazing Twins 9:00 Star Olympics 11:00 Iyo Ang Kalatungan	6:00 Combat Mission 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 7th Heaven 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal
5:30 Sharon 7:30 Wansapanataym 8:30 Home Along Da Riles 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 The Working President 10:00 Standing Room Only	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Gullytard 7:00 Isup alpb 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 K! 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event Emma 11:00 Sunday Report	4:00 PBA Games 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Global Family Series 11:30 El Shaddai	7:00 Sunday Mini-Series 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling
6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Kay Tagal Kang Hininay 7:00 Basta! Kasama Kita 7:30 Game K N B? 8:00 Darang Ang Umaga 8:30 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 9:00 Bida Si Mister Bida Si Miss 11:00 Headlines 11:30 Mission X	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Strangestrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Family Rosary Crusade 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 F 6:30 Balitang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That '70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Mavrick and Arie 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Nanto Ang Puso Ko 7:40 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Ang Inibig Ay Ikaw Pa Rin 8:50 Sana Ay Ikaw Na Niga 9:30 Da Boy and Da Girl 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	6:00 Crayon Shin Chan 6:30 Entertainment Tonight 7:00 Just for Laughs 8:00 Jag 9:00 Harsh Realm 10:00 NewsWatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 Overseas Pinoy	6:00 Quantum Info 6:30 NBA Jam 9:30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonight 11:00 Linauwa Natin	6:00 TV Patrol 7:00 Batman Beyond 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Buffy 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah
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SATURDAY,
JULY 5, 2003

D2

Death of a screen legend

From page D2

royalties the rest of her life.

Despite her ample inheritance, Ms Hepburn preferred to lead a simple life, her fortune compounding as the years went by. Despite her glamorous image, she wore no make-up, donned pants, did not mingle with Hollywood's night people, and concentrated instead on honing her craft.

Lover

She had a short-lived marriage but spent 27 years of her most productive years as the lover of alcoholic but highly talented Spencer Tracy, with whom she made nine films, most of which she chose to showcase his career and boost his flagging ego.

After winning an Academy Award for "Morning Glory" in 1932, she made films that bombed at the box office. Vengeful producers then christened her Box Office Poison. Nevertheless, she persevered, eventually garnering an unprecedented 12 nominations as best actress, and winning three more trophies for "Guess Who's Coming To Dinner" in 1967, "A Lion In Winter" in 1968 and "On Golden Pond" in 1981.

No one had ever pulled off such an awesome artistic feat. Her achievement is all the more admirable when we remember that, despite her pigheadedness, she was still constrained by restricting studio limitations.

Ms Hepburn rightfully belongs to the pantheon of Hollywood's greatest stars, with Garbo, Davis, Chaplin, Tracy and Bogart—legends all.

Angel Locsin . . .

From page D2

Scared

"I got scared because somebody was following me and my friend around," she recalls. "I thought maho-hold-up kami. 'Yun pala, our 'stalker' only wanted to give me her card."

A few months after that fateful meeting, Angel bagged her first commercial. It was followed by eight more TV ads.

Railey, on the other hand, was hanging out with his pal at Robinson's Galleria in October 2001 when publicist Rico Miranda asked him if he wanted to be in the movies. The then gangling 17-year-old wasn't sure, but he later gave Rico, who's now his manager, a call.

His first TV appearance was in the Jan. 1, 2002 episode of Rudy Fernandez's old TV program, "Kasangga." "Inabangan talaga namin 'yun," he recounts. "Buong pamilya kami nanood. I couldn't believe I was watching myself on TV—but, at the same time, I felt proud. Nakantiyawan lang ako, kasi mukha daw akong tuod."

Movie project

The two promising hopefuls auditioned and then joined "Click" in April last year. Now, they have a movie project together (a teen flick produced by Regal Films, tentatively titled "Kuya") and are mainstays of soap operas.

Railey plays the rival of Richard Gutierrez for Chynna Ortega's affection in "Habang Kapiling Ka," while Angel is the lost daughter of Richard Gomez and Alice Dixon in "Ang Ibibig Ay Ikaw Pa Rin."

Angel looks forward to working with her other favorite stars, Vilma Santos and Maricel Soriano. "Just like them, I want to be known as someone

who can really act, and madaling katabaho."

Conquering her shyness has been one great leap for this self-confessed introvert. "Pero compared kay Railey," she laughs, "extrovert na ako! So-bra talaga syang mahiyain—but he's improved a lot."



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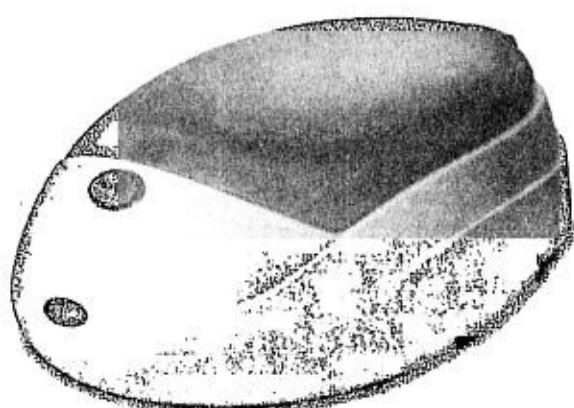
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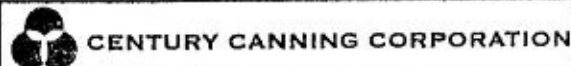
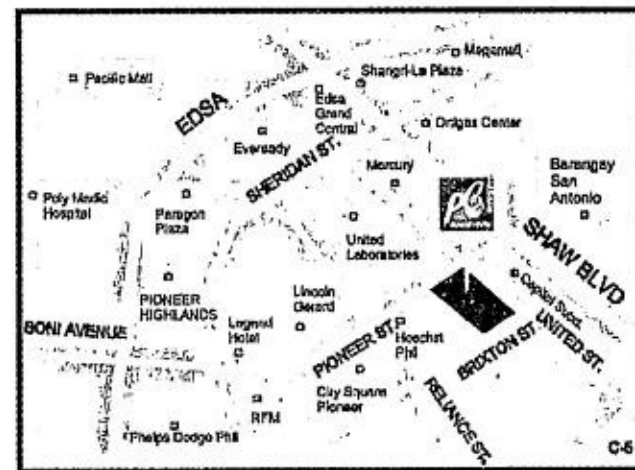
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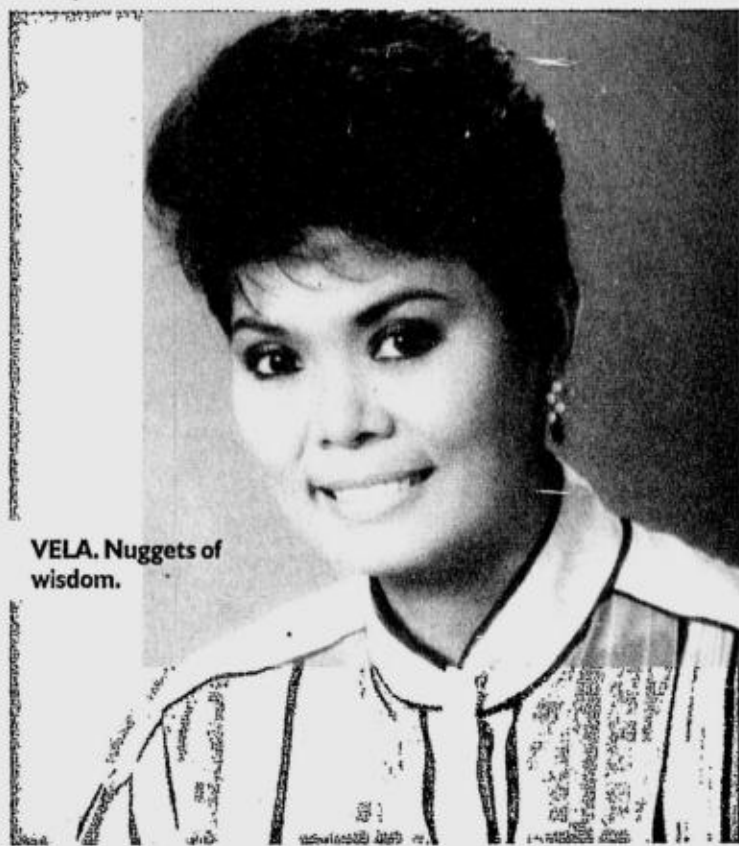
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A very, very happy anniversary



VELA. Nuggets of wisdom.

DEAR Clara,

Many years ago, when I received an award as host of "Eye to Eye," I applauded my home studio in my acceptance speech: "Maraming salamat sa GMA-7, ang tanging himpilang nagbabalita ng totoo."

New tagline

Last night, when I turned on the box, I felt a tug inside when I heard the network's new tagline: "Serbisyong totoo."

"Totoo." That has always been what GMA-7 is to me. True. Real. Genuine. Sincere. Honest. Honorable. Upright.

Balitang totoo. Serbisyong totoo. Mga taong totoo. This is what exemplifies the home where I belong. Sa totoo lang. I've been away for a while, but now that I'm back, I'm very happy to be a GMA-7 kapuso.

I'm telling you this, Clara, because the station is celebrating its very, very happy 53rd anniversary and I feel a sense of belonging. After all, I have made my humble

FACE TO FACE



Inday Badiday

contribution to making GMA-7 what it has become today.

Gentleman

It's time for reminiscences: I remember my GMA-7 boss, Mr. Tony Barreiro, the no-nonsense gentleman. He personified the human heart of the corporate GMA giant. He stood by me when I fought some blistering battles in my career.

Ms Leila Benitez was my idol. The seed of my ambition to become a broadcaster took root because of her. Many times, I skipped my classes at PWU just so I could see her in person on "Student Canteen."

My friend Helen Vela still has a very special place in my heart, due to the nuggets of wisdom she so generously shared with me after she found the Lord. She set me off on my personal journey to also seek God in my life.

Cause for jubilation

Clara, I don't know if this is a nice thing to say, but Jelleny was the only person I've met who was in a hurry to die—not because she was bored or fed up with life, but because she passionately wanted to be with her Lord and Savior. At her wake, it was unfashionable to cry. Her passing was a cause for jubilation because people knew that God had granted her heart's desire—to be united with Him.

Your Tito Germs (German Moreno) is Mr. GMA-7—if only because of his unstinting loyalty to the station. I remember, when "That's Entertainment" bade farewell, many people advised him not to accept the new show being offered to him, because its timeslot was on what we call the graveyard shift. But Germs decided to take it—and, today, "Mr. Showman" has developed the late-evening slot.

Rival network

Once, a rival network wanted to pirate Jelleny, Germs and me from GMA-7. Germs said, "Basta, ang usapan natin, all for one, one for all. Hindi tayo lilipat kung may isa sa atin na ayaw." As it turned out, Jelleny and I were inclined to accept the tantalizing offers dangled before us—but Germs was steadfast: He didn't want to leave GMA 7. Indeed, Loyalty is this man's middle name.

I also miss my boss then at dzBB, Manang Lydye (Lydia Villegas). When I pinch-hit for Germs on his radio show because he went to the US for the wedding of Donita Rose, I felt so honored when Manang Lydye came to see me. Hugging her was like touching the core from which I derive my strength. Manang Lydye is like that. She invigorates with just her smile.

She has since retired but is still very much around as consultant. She's always been so motherly to me. Know what, Clara? I feel that, when I lost my own mom, God gave her to me. She was always generous with her wisdom. Some of the well-meant advice she gave, I ignored—and I have lived to regret my folly.

Silent gladiator

I also miss Mr. Gracing Gozun, who always astounded me with his generosity of spirit. He believed in me and helped me beyond the call of duty. Ditto for Mr. Tony Seva, the silent gladiator. I cherish the memory of how accommodating he always was to me, lending an ear to all my woes, both real and imagined.

My friendship with your Tita Lennie Parto began during our Broadcast City days, when she was just my executive producer. At GMA-7, she became VP for Programming, but our friendship only deepened, as our respect for each other grew.

I have one big regret, Clara. I did not seize the chance when I had it to really be a friend to Wilma Galvante. During our Broadcast City days, she was reserved and kept largely to herself. At GMA-7, I've seen how she has metamorphosed into the efficient, hands-on, no-nonsense boss, as VP for Production.

Bosom

I'm grateful, Clara, that at the press conference for "Inday, Heart to Heart," your Tita Wilma came to personally welcome me back to the bosom of GMA-7. I hope I get the opportunity to develop a deep friendship with her in the days ahead. It's never too late!

There are other people at GMA-7 I have vowed to rediscover: Your Tito Mike Enriquez was quite new at GMA-7 when I left the network. I misjudged him. I thought he was full of hot air, especially when he was covering the papal visit and he did it with his "armalite" reporting style. But, of course, he has since changed the way broadcast news is delivered in this country. For Mike is a trailblazer who chooses not to tread the beaten path, but carves out his own way that others follow.

Your Tita Mel Tiangco and Tito Jay Sonza are other people I once thought were mayabang. I guess, I felt intimidated by them when they transferred from another network to join my turf. Now, I'm so glad to discover that they're both so warm and sweet—very real people.

At this point, Clara, I'd like to mention the dzBB family—because radio shall forever be my first love. There's Manang Rose (Flores), with her ready smile. And the energetic man-in-a-hurry, Bobby Guanzon. I wonder where he is now?

Good friend

The original Arman Roque, with his imitable punchlines, never fails to enliven me. Another funny but hard-hitting guy is Señor Rey Pacheco, Mr. Small But Terrible. Don Manolo Pavis is another good friend. Rene Jose is also still very much around with his news analyses.

Dear Clara, why am I telling you about all these people? Because the heart and soul of a network does not beat in its ratings and hit shows, but in its workers whose lives have improved the quality of life of others.

SATURDAY Special

Guy Pearce nixes
major film stardom

NEW YORK—The inside man for a heist in "The Hard Word" outlines his plan, emphasizing that security cameras will have to be disconnected and tapes destroyed. "The object of this exercise is to be rich," he says. "We do not want to be famous."

Advice

Guy Pearce, the film's star, seems to have applied that advice to his career.

"I don't want to be a celebrity," says Pearce, who verged on superstardom after 1997's "L.A. Confidential."

"The little amount that I've had in the past—it was fun going into it," he continues, alluding to a 1980s stint in a popular Australian soap opera, "But once you're in, you realize you don't actually want to be in it anymore."

For one thing, he didn't realize fans would go into his back yard and steal everything on his clothesline. Years later, he's glad he no longer suffers such indignities.

But back when Pearce arrived in the United States to do publicity for 1994's "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert," in which he starred as a drag queen, he heard the talk from studio executives and others about being "the next whoever" and "you're gonna be hot."

Flattered

"A part of me was going, 'Ahh, thanks. Gee, I'm flattered. Thanks very much.' Then in the back of my mind, I was going, 'Yeah, but . . .,'" says the English-born Australian actor, who plays the heistmeister in the new comic crime caper "The Hard Word." "I mean, look, in a sense I could probably justify being incredibly famous—if you believe in yourself that you're incredibly talented."

But he doesn't. Pearce says he's not all that confident about his acting.

"I have this really amazing ability to completely take any onus off myself, and go, 'I'm just a cog in a machine here.' It's something I've done a lot," he says.

He'll say to himself about a particular role: "I'm not going to pull this off, at all. You'd have to be George Clooney or Tom Cruise, (someone) who has natural, incredible, magnetic, confident charisma."

But he has enough of an ego that "I want to be a good cog in the wheel . . . but ultimately a cog."

Even when people bring up 2001's "Memento" and suggest his starring performance as a memory-challenged widower



PEARCE. Praised for his exceptional performances in "L.A. Confidential" and "Memento."

carried the well-regarded film, he responds that he was just a cog in that, too. Director Christopher Nolan's Oscar-winning script, which told the story in reverse, and the other actors made it feel like "such a team effort."

Formulaic studio stuff

Still, he's turned down big-budget films mainly because he didn't like them, not because of a stardom-phobia. "If I had been offered really good studio films, I would have done them. But I wasn't. I was offered fairly formulaic studio stuff that I'd seen before, and I felt I really couldn't do anything with those characters anyway."

The exception was "L.A. Confidential," which received nine Oscar nominations. But after his splashy role as an ambitious LA police lieutenant, he just did the roles he wanted.

Jackie Chan achieves his dream

By Nestor U. Torre

ASIANS have been trying to make it big in Hollywood for decades, but the highest performers from Asia ever got in American movies was in villain roles, and as ingenues or second leads in Asian-themed films (Nancy Kwan and Miyoshi Umeki in "Flower Drum Song," France Nuyen in "South Pacific," and Barbara Perez in "No Man Is an Island").

Ultimate goal

These achievements are substantial enough, but the ultimate goal was solo stardom in a major film—a dream that remained elusive for many years—until recently.

In the past decade, Asian stars have finally attained lead status in big productions that have led the box office on their first weekend, some even topping \$100 million in gross receipts, the magic number that spells becoming a hit in Hollywood.

Pacing the current Asian invasion of the US film capital is martial arts sensation Jackie Chan. Like Bruce Lee before him, Jackie has fought his way into American viewers' hearts.

Combination

But Chan has done even better than Bruce Lee, because he hasn't been limited to martial arts projects. His combination of action and comedy has prompted Hollywood producers to realize that he has more going for him than flying fists and deadly kicks.

In fact, they see in him the Asian reincarnation of revered American silent-film comedy stars like Buster Keaton and Harold Lloyd.

Jackie's Hollywood films have been doing so well at the box office worldwide that he is now regarded as one of the most bankable male stars in US films. But it was not always so.

Inspiring lesson

As a recent documentary on the Discovery channel showed, Jackie's life and career began most inauspiciously. His rise to the top is thus an inspiring lesson in determination and refusal to give up in the face of daunting odds.



CHAN. Now regarded as one of the most bankable male stars in Hollywood.

Since his parents were poor, little Jackie was put in a school that trained boys like him in martial arts, and in the other skills needed for performing in acrobatics and Chinese opera.

The regimen was extremely punishing, but Jackie had no other prospects, so he grit his teeth and put up with everything that his sadistic mentors subjected him to.

Teenager

Jackie was still a teenager when he tried his luck as a stuntman in Chinese martial arts films. He worked hard and learned all he could, so at 18, he became the youngest stunt coordinator in Hong Kong films.

The big star then was Bruce Lee, and all young upstarts were compared to him, often unfavorably. Jackie was no exception. But Lee died most unexpectedly, so the field was suddenly wide open for precisely those young upstarts who had been deemed unworthy of aspiring to Lee's "throne."

Sadly, producers weren't looking for talents who could be stars in their own right, but insisted that young comers copy Lee in everything—looks, fighting style, mannerisms, crowd-getting gimmicks, everything.

Initial showcase

Luckily, director Willy Chan remembered Jackie and his unique combination of action and comedy, so he dared to give the young comer the initial showcase he needed to make a positive impression on moviegoers.

Alas, their first effort was a dud. But Willy and Jackie kept trying, until they finally came up with a winner in "Snake in the Eagle's Shadow."

In that martial arts comedy, Jackie impressed viewers with his inventiveness, and the extra steps he took to make his action-comedy sequences truly choice.

Gains

With "Drunken Master," Jackie consolidated his gains and dazzled moviegoers with even more impressive action-comedy tricks and fancy routines. He didn't mind getting injured while executing complicated and dangerous stunts, as long as viewers were bowled over by his screen wizardry.

They were, and more. He became so popular and famous in Asia that he had to walk around wearing disguises to become incognito—but he would still be recognized.

By this time, Jackie was getting known, not just in Asia, but in the west as well. Finally, after 20 years in the biz, Hollywood beckoned.

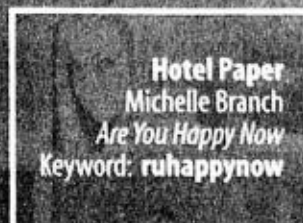
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Vanessa
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Ogie Alcasid | 10 Loving You
Lani Misalucha | 18 Harem
Sarah Brightman |
| 4 Meteor Garden II
Original Soundtrack
keyword: brokenvow | 11 Heaven
Nina
keyword: giftofall | 19 Come Away With Me
Norah Jones |
| 5 Meteor Garden I
Original Soundtrack
keyword: fallinginluv | 12 The Art Of Letting Go
Various Artists
keyword: outreach | 20 Let Me Be The One
Jimmy Bond |
| 6 Perhaps Perhaps Perhaps
Various Artists | 13 Hail To The Thief
Radiohead
keyword: there | 21 Body Will Sing
Vanessa |
| 7 Play With Me
Paolo Santos | 14 A Gift Of Love
Tuck & Patti | 22 St. Anger
Metallica
keyword: frantic |
| | 15 Charlie's Angels:
Full Throttle
Various Artists | 23 Dutty Rock
Sean Paul
keyword: getbusy |
| | | 24 Get Rich Or Die Tryin'
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At 21, Prince William is no 'reluctant royal'

By Noelani Torre

WHETHER we like to admit it or not, the truth is that we've always been fascinated with celebrity stories—anything related to the personal lives of stars. We like to think of celebrities as public property, and in a lot of ways they are. After all, fame is a conscious choice, and when you become famous you belong to the public that has made you popular.

Perfect example

But, what about those who didn't choose their celebrity-hood? Those who were born to it, or to misquote the bard, have had it thrust upon them? The perfect example of this type of celebrity would be Britain's Prince William.

He knows firsthand the perils of celebrity, and the sacrifices it entails. After all, his celebrated mother's tragic death was itself "the ultimate sacrifice," to quote the gossip rags.

Unlike his mother, who was more open to the press, William has always been reticent, and protective of his privacy. Recently, however, he's had to reveal more of himself to an increasingly curious public—especially on his 21st birthday, a turning point which he marked a few weeks ago.

There were a number of specials on Prince



PRINCE William is a very private person playing a very public role.

REUTERS

William airing on TV on that particular occasion, and we were able to catch one of the better ones on Star World: "Prince William at 21: the Reluctant Royal."

Celebrity specials tend to run in two directions, they either gush to death or they do the seamier, "revelation" expose that not only topples a celebrity off his pedestal, but rubs his face in the dirt as well.

Objective

The Star World special was neither of the two. It strove to be objective, and presented the 21-year-old's life in as non-gushy and non-titillating a manner as possible.

Interviews were held not with the prince's relatives or friends, who were equally reticent with the press, but with his and his mother's "biographers," as well as with a few people who have worked for the royal family.

This doesn't give us a complete picture, but it's the best one can hope for when it comes to such a private individual and his generally private family. And, like most other red-

blooded females, we do admit to a certain curiosity about this undeniably good-looking royal personage.

Emphasized throughout the show was William's distaste for the paparazzi. They showed footage of a much younger William trying to cover his face when he was out on holiday with his mother and younger brother.

Princess Diana favored vacation spots that were more accessible to paparazzi, and their last holiday, in the Mediterranean with Dodi Fayed, caused her to blow up, royally, at the boatload of "sharks" tailing them. "Can't you see you're turning William into a basket case?" she demanded.

First statement

From what we can see, however, the prince seems to be a well-balanced individual, who can be even quite mature at times. In his first statement about his future role as king of England (people keep forgetting about Prince Charles), he denied the rumors that he was a "reluctant royal."

"All these questions about do you want to be king?" he said. "It's not a question of wanting to be, it's something I was born into and it's my duty. Those stories about me not wanting to be king are all wrong. It's a very important role and it's one that I don't take lightly."

We liked the interviews with his fellow volunteers on Operation Raleigh, a good works organization founded by his father. They were more honest. One of them said that they called William "the little princess" because he was so tall (6'4") but danced a little girlishly.

Another said that, sorry to disappoint all his fans, but he really was just like any other young man, that there was nothing particularly out of the ordinary about his opinions, etc.

Another interesting tidbit we picked up was a childhood anecdote that underscored the inescapability of his destiny. He asked his parents whether he could be a policeman when he grew up, and it was his brother Harry who said, "No, you can't, you're going to be king."

Sarah Geronimo is Viva's next rising star

By Andy R. Bais

"STAR for a Night" winner Sarah Geronimo is slowly but surely making her presence felt in the recording scene. Her winning song, Celine Dion's vocally demanding "To Love You More," which is the carrier single of the talent search' album, has been among radio's top 10 most requested songs for several months now. The album is also well on its way to turning platinum.

Veteran

Indeed, luck is finally on Sarah's side after almost nine years. At 14, the straightforward Sarah considers herself a veteran in the field of entertainment.

The lanky teen was once part of the regular cast of "Pen-Pen de Sarapen," a children's show. At six, she held a mini-concert and performed in hotels. But this exposure wasn't enough to catapult her to stardom.

Still, Sarah didn't give up, and went the amateur singing contest route. "Ang dami ko nang singing contest na nasaliha," she reveals.

She cherishes being a hall of famer at the singing contest for children of PLDT employees.

Humble origins

Viva's prize catch isn't ashamed of her humble origins. "Nakatira po kami sa isang bahay na isa lang ang bintana sa bandang Sta. Cruz, Manila. Talaga pong hirap kaming makatulog dahil sa init. Kaya ganun na lang ang pagpursige kong sumali sa mga singing contest para makatulong sa mga gastusin namin," she says.

The doting daughter has only high praises for her parents, Divina and Delfin Geronimo. In spite of their financial difficulties, they were able to send their four children to good schools.

"Yun lang daw kasi ang maibigay nila sa amin. Tuwing pasukan, problema kami palagi sa pera para pang-enroll. Kung kani-kanino sila nangungutang para mapag-aral nila kami," Sarah relates.

Her victory in "Star for a Night" has opened doors for her, and the prize money was a huge windfall that the Geronimos used to repair their house, pay for the kids' tuition, and settle some debts.

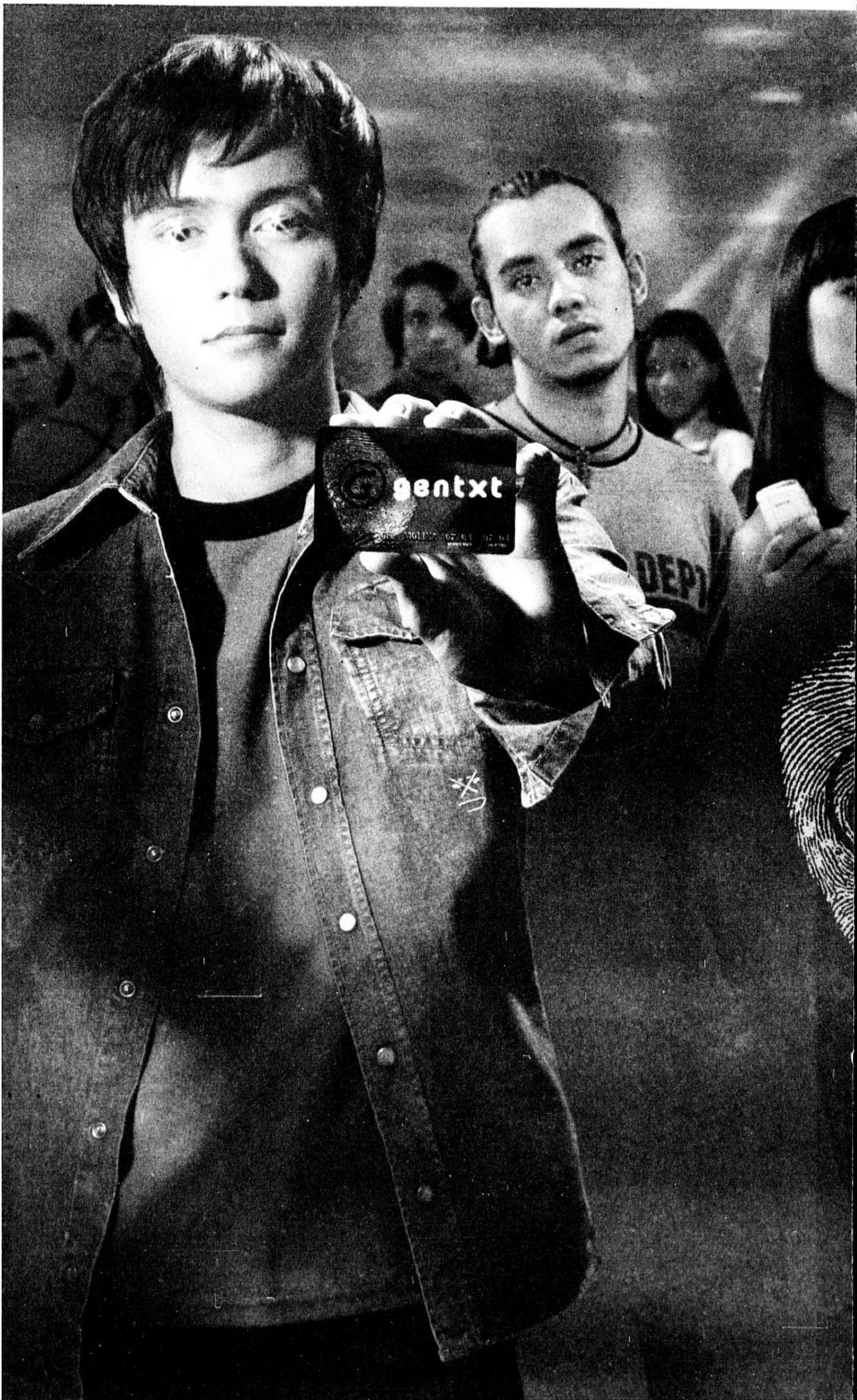
Contestants

On the day of our interview, we chanced upon Sarah interviewing contestants during the taping of "Search for a Star," the new talent competition being shown on GMA-7 every Saturday at 6 p.m.

Sarah is now with Viva Artists Agency and Viva Records. She is all set to start recording her solo album. She will appear in a movie to be headlined by Jolina Magdangal, and a concert is also being planned for her at Music Museum. Lucky girl!



GERONIMO. Has put her prize money to good use.



Demi Moore makes a smashing comeback

OUR Q and A this week:

From Agatha Petaga, "I have rediscovered Demi Moore in 'Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle.' She may look a bit older but she still looks smashing, maybe more so than some of the current angels. Why not a feature on her?"

SHOW BIZ Q & A

Rito P. Asilo

She may look older. But after four decades, three kids, two marriages that ended in divorce (the last one after 11 years with Bruce Willis), a string of box-office hits ("Ghost," "Indecent Proposal," "Disclosure," "A Few Good Men") and duds ("The Butcher's Wife," "Striptease," "G.I. Jane"), plus a tabloid-friendly love life, Demi Moore is back, with a major splash in the "Charlie's Angels" sequel.

The leggy 40-year-old actress (she's only 5'5") has a refreshingly beautiful face that belies a colorful past. The line "been there, done that" fits her perfectly.

She has a Filipino-sounding real name: Demetria. Her life story reads like it was culled

straight from the pages of a Jackie Collins novel—but without its convoluted ending yet.

Demi's biological father left her mother even before she was born. When her stepfather came into the picture, he didn't add much stability to her life, either—he changed jobs and kept moving the family—more than 40 times!

Rock musician

Her parents kept drinking, arguing and beating each other up until her mother committed suicide. Demi quit school at 16 to work as a pin-up girl, married rock musician Freddie Moore at 18, and became a regular on the soap, "General Hospital," at 19.

She spent her salary partying and sniffing cocaine. That lasted for three years, until director Joel Schumacher ("Phone Booth," "Batman Forever") fired her from the set of "St. Elmo's Fire" when she turned up high.

She had to sign a contract stipulating that she would stop her alcohol and drug abuse, a decision that turned her life around. She went for withdrawal treatment and returned clean

after a week.

At the height of her career, Moore had a knack for publicity stunts. She posed nude for Vanity Fair twice (1)—first, in 1991, when she was seven months pregnant, and in 1992, when she wore nothing but body paint that resembled a man's suit. Eat your heart out, Madonna!

And, like the Material Mommy, she has a string of Razzie citations as "Worst Actress of the Year." She won twice, for 1996's "The Juror" and "Striptease" and for 1997's "G.I. Jane." Even then, the yuppie female set was eager to copy her movie dos and tresses (remember the short bob in "Ghost"?).

Good thing women didn't find it "fashionable" when she donned a bald pate in "G.I. Jane"! Imagine a room full of bald women—horrors!

Nomination

Demi earned a Golden Globe nomination for "Ghost," for "Best Performance by an Actress in a Comedy or Musical"—in a role that is neither musical nor comic!

She hired three cameramen to videotape the birth of her first child to Bruce Willis, and often



MOORE. Colorful past.

turned to plastic surgery for nips and tucks on the hips, tummy, buttocks and breast.

She was the first actress to reach the \$10-million mark, but bad career decisions ended her reign at the box office. Except for a vocal performance as the voice of Esmeralda in the animated "Hunchback of Notre Dame" sequel last year, her last movie was Alain Berliner's "Passion of Mind," which was a flop.

After the release of "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle," with reviews gushing not so much about her performance but about how she gave the other Angels a run for their money, Demi gets a new lease on her acting life. As for her love life, Ashton Kutcher has got that covered!

God at the center

WHEN our partner fools around and has affairs, how do we deal with jealousy and anger? How seriously should we take the various relationships we develop in this world? My spiritual teacher, Jagad Guru, once advised:

Lonely journey

"This material world is a place of temporary stops on a lonely journey. We do not need to take relationships too seriously, thinking, 'This is my source of happiness, and this is where I am going to settle.'"

My teacher continued to explain that it's like we are in a bus station and we talk to people we will never see again. Planet Earth is like a spaceship, and we are transient passengers. It is foolishness to think, "This is my destination. This is my home." And yet, we get deeply attached to this world, and the temporary relationships we form.

Our relationships here are relatively short-lived. We need a long-lasting relationship and that can be had only with the Supreme Beloved.

Loving relationship

When we have a loving relationship with the Supreme Person, we will not experience feelings of jealousy, greed, frustration, and lust. Jealousy comes from placing our life and heart in the hands of someone who is also dissatisfied, and is looking for someone else to love.

Love for God is central to a relationship between living beings. We relate soul-to-soul rather than body-to-body; we relate to please God and not ourselves and our senses.

If a man is mature and responsible, he should see his wife and children as his students. He knows he has the responsibility to help them become attached to God, and not objects for him to get attached to and enjoy. The husband and parent can be a real friend by giving and not by needing.

Spiritual protection

Relationships should be spiritualized. The wife helps the husband so that the husband's service to God is easier. She should not need him to serve her, but find shelter in spiritual protection.

Make God the center of our lives. With God, there is love and life; without God, there is pain and heartache, over and over again.

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New movies for young viewers

By Nestor U. Torre

HOLLYWOOD is so focused on teen and adult entertainment that it doesn't make enough films for children and adolescents. That's why, when movies for young viewers do come along, we make special mention of them.

This film quarter, the promising productions for young moviegoers include:

Curious sign

"Finding Nemo." This latest animated feature from Pixar Animation Studios and Walt Disney Pictures follows the comedic journeys of two fish, the overly cautious Marlin and his curious son, Nemo.

When Nemo goes off to school for the very first time, Marlin is fearful and anxious, because he knows that the Great Barrier Reef is full of dangers. It turns out that he has every reason to be scared: when Nemo defies his father and swims beyond the reef to investigate a boat, he is suddenly scooped up by a diver.

Marlin frantically swims off in search of his son, with the help of kind but absentminded Dory, a blue tang. The duo have close encounters with sharks, a blue whale, sea turtles and ravenous seagulls, and their adventures become the stuff of legends.

Meanwhile, Nemo has landed in an aquarium in a dentist's office, where he also has his fins full coping with the other colorful and ornery characters in the fish tank.

How does Marlin get to rescue Nemo when he is in the ocean and his son is in an aquarium? Suffice it to say that a friendly pelican has a lot to do with the hit movie's exciting denouement.



HILLARY Duff plays the title role in "The Lizzie McGuire Movie." AP PHOTO

Difficult path

Meanwhile, "Piglet's Big Movie" focuses on the Hundred Acre Wood gang's difficult path toward learning that it doesn't take somebody big to do big things. Each character represents a different personality for young viewers to relate to:

Piglet is a little creature whose generosity and loyalty far outweigh his meager size. Winnie the Pooh isn't very smart, but he cares deeply for all his friends, especially Piglet.

Tigger, the overly exuberant tiger, is easily excited. Roo, the youngest Hundred Acre Wood resident, is a wee kangaroo who lives with his loving mother Kanga, and wants nothing more than to impress Tigger. Rabbit is the most intelligent among the friends, so he becomes the group's leader.

Favorite donkey

Eeyore is everyone's favorite donkey, despite his being so

NEW/E2



"Who says I can't make flowers grow?"

Lucy Torres-Gomez
Lucy Torres-Gomez

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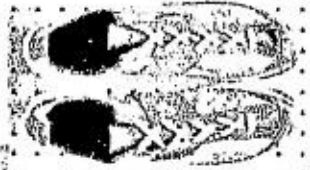
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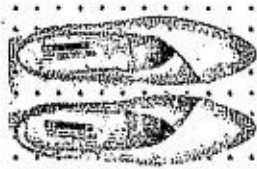
MALATE

BIOLOGY CAFÉ – Bocobo Street

A dark and dingy bar that gives an entirely new meaning to "hole in the wall." In this bar, my aging friend once said, you would find the most gorgeous waiters and the cutest bisexual boys. Since I believe that bisexuality is a joke, this will give you an idea of how I look at the waiters here. But the place is worth looking into... once. Go in. Perhaps have one drink and wait 'til a cutie comes along. When drink is finished and no cutie has come by, leave immediately.

**THE LIBRARY – Adriatico Street****BASILICA – Vaquez Street**

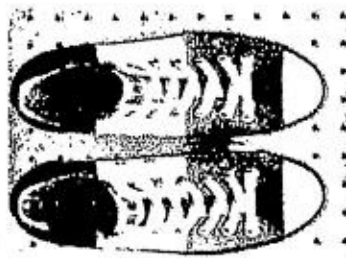
These two stand-up comedy clubs are notorious for gay performers whose comedy is crass, crude, and lots of fun! Gay Filipinos have a sense of humor that cannot be rivaled anywhere else in the world. I would laugh really hard at the mere sight of my pa-girl (effeminate) friends. I laugh even harder when they start telling me about the funny day they've had. They slay me absolutely every time. The Library is an institution in Malate. Basilica, on the other hand, is quite new and very popular with the local gay crowd. Both are fun and hilarious, and both have very entertaining gay hosts, comedians, and singers. Sometimes, the jokes fall flat. And the interiors are, well, let's just say it's one of the reasons that these two are on the B-list.

**MINT – Orosa Street**

Mint used to be the only choice gay men had when they wanted to go dancing, and frankly, that wasn't a choice they always wanted to make. Frighteningly dark and damp, the place feels like one is stepping into a dingy basement. The sound has improved a bit, but the atmosphere of hurried intimacies is still so thick, that a girl could get pregnant just by walking in and taking a deep breath. Beware of the dark room in the back area of the first floor. Not for the faint of heart, but definitely perfect for those looking for some quick action. According to recent accounts by some of my more, uh, adventurous friends, the place is now a giant dark room. Don't bring valuables.

PART II
Gay Guide

LAST week, Jay Santos gave you Super's Gay Guide A-list. As promised, here's the B-batch:



MAKATI

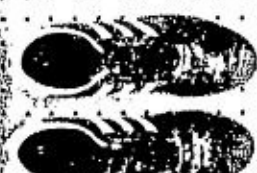
Absinthe – Greenbelt 3. Very gay-friendly, gets a considerably gay crowd on Fridays, manager is gay.

Olive – Makati Avenue. The best club in Manila, sadly, has been closed due to some unfortunate drive-by shooting incident a few weeks back. Rumors of reopening abound. A few gay club kids inside on weekends.

12 – Greenbelt 2. Chic and gay on Fridays. You have to be on the guestlist, though.

Temple – Greenbelt 2. Fun and happy vibe with a mixed crowd on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Flute – Salcedo Village. Used to be packed on triple F (Fag Fridays at Flute), but fickle fags moved elsewhere, and it is now empty or near-empty on Fridays.



QUEZON CITY

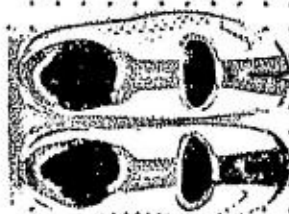
Blue Butterfly – Timog Avenue. A friendly neighborhood gay bar, popular with the QC crowd, doesn't get a crowd 'til weekend, usually becomes the stopover of QC fags bound for Malate.

3rd Dimension – Libis. The city's only existing lesbian club, packed with lesbians and their straight male admirers on weekends.

The Comedy Clubs (Punchline, Klownz, etc.). Entertainment hosted by funny, gay stand-up comedians.

MR. PIGGIES – Adriatico Street

Reports that Mr. Piggies has been raided and closed due to incidents of (to put it mildly) sexual misconduct inside its once decent and kitschy halls have been circulating. If the place is still open, for those with nothing to lose but their social standing, go and check it out. Again, don't bring valuables. They might be worth more than your self-respect.



CEBU

Merman. A show bar in Lapu-lapu near Gaisano.

Kokais – Escario. A gay bar.

Mi Vida – Ayala Gay-friendly.

Brix – Ayala. Gay-friendly.

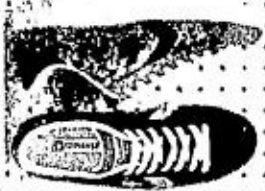


ILOILO

K.O. Sports Bar. Gay bar where guys strip down to their undies while dancing.

Vega. Gay-friendly.

Convay. Gay-friendly place with live R&B band and dancing.



BAGUIO

Spirits Bar. Gay.

Rumors. Mixed.

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Part II

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Gender-bending dwarfsploitation on prime-time TV

ACTOR:

"Ako po si Allan. I am a 29-year-old male midget. Magsasaka lang po si Papa. Mahirap lang po kami. I grew up in Guinobatan, Bicol. My house is two hours away from the nearest bayan. Eleven kaming magkakapatid. Ako lang ang unano. When Mama died five years ago it was a really hard time for my family."

Sabi po nila kamukha ko daw si Mahal sa Masayang Tanghali Bayan (MTB). Sa bundok po kami nakatira at wala pong electricity doon kaya hindi ko po kilala masyado si Mahal.

I worked in a freak show before. Foreigners would have their photographs taken with me. When I got the offer to dress up like a girl and become Mahal's twin on MTB, I grabbed it. Okay lang na magkukunwari akong babae. Basta makatulong, kahit papano, sa pamilya ko, gagawin ko."

Manager:

"We are going to get rich! This is awesome! Someone told me they found some guy dwarf in some random barrio in the province. They sent me a picture and they were absolutely right. He does look like Mahal. Well, he sort of does... but wait, there's a problem. He is a guy and Mahal is a girl."

Hmmmm... what to do, what to do? We can dress him up like a girl. Yes, I think we can wing it.

How would he feel? Do you think this midget would mind if we dressed him up like a female doll, have him dance and act like a child, and basically become a mascot?

Maybe. But who cares? Anything for a quick buck. This is easy money! Ya, ya, ya, we are deceiving the public but honestly, do they care? I don't think so. In this country all people really want is to be entertained. Toilet humor does the trick every time. That's show business.

Viewer

"These two characters, Mahal and Mura, on MTB are pretty funny. They are 28 and 29 years old? Gosh, that's pretty old to be acting like kids. Oh well, anything for a laugh. I mean, if these producers don't care about the message they

SWAK!

by Lex



Call me self-righteous, but I don't think midgets should be treated like animated props

are sending, why should I?

At least they aren't working in some carnival. They are adults, anyway. Hey, maybe they even enjoy dancing the way they do. Sometimes, though, when I look closely, it seems like they are about to cry. Or maybe I'm reading too much into it. I guess it's better to be abused on national TV and make big bucks, than remain a carnival sideshow. Or is that abuse, just the same? Maybe I shouldn't be laughing?

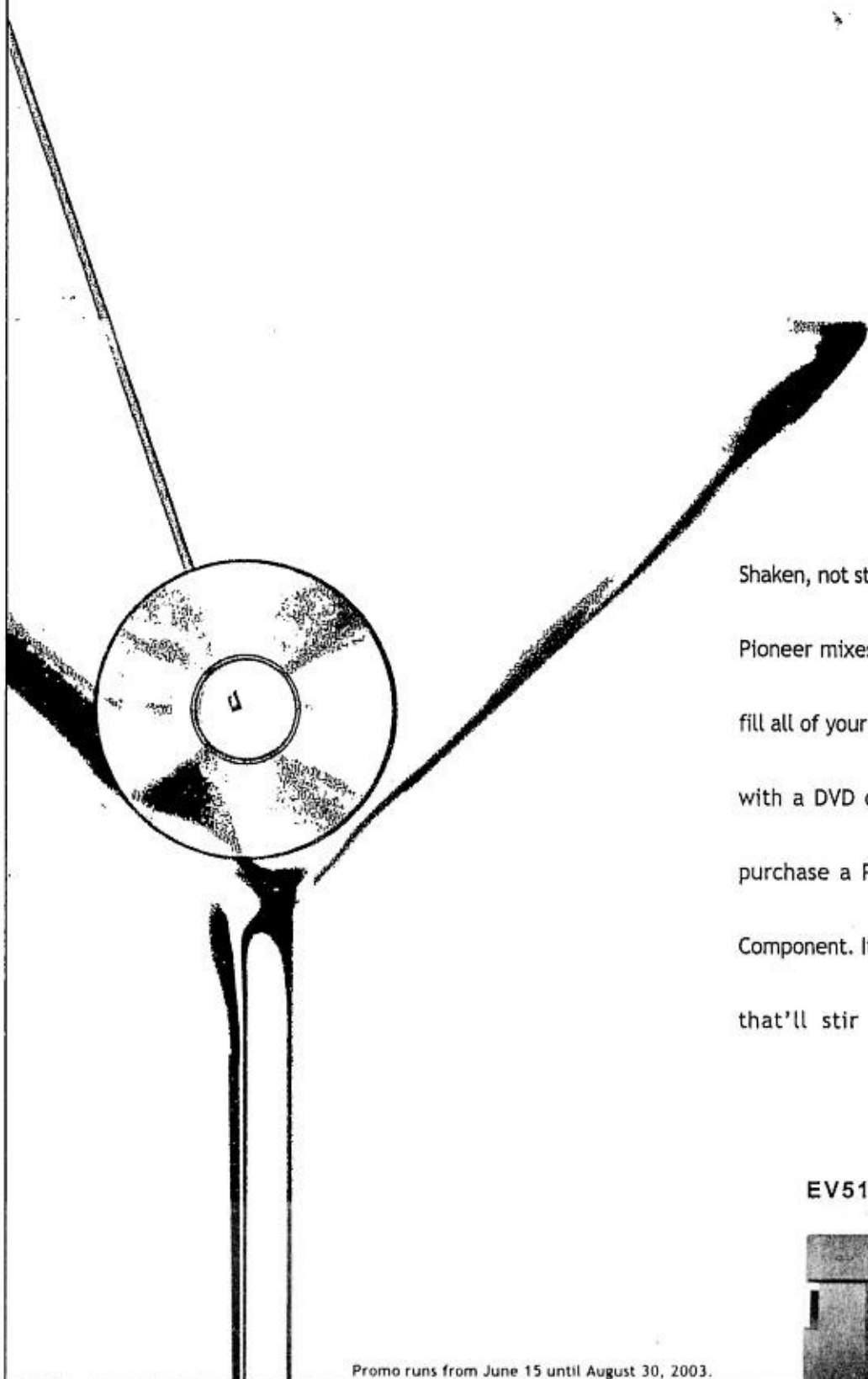
The state of the Philippine entertainment industry is pretty dismal. I did not interview Mura or his/her manager. I just thought these things should be going on in their heads. I do know, however, that Mura is a 29-year-old guy in drag.

Call me self-righteous, but that doesn't sit too well with me. I don't think midgets should be made to gender-bend or be treated like animated props. If MTB's ratings are any indication, then I guess most people actually consider this stuff funny.

And while we ponder the morality of this situation, some people are laughing all the way to the bank.

For comments e-mail: swak_by_lex@yahoo.com

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WET ONES. Richard Danao, one half of Fidel (the other half being fab fab Markus Schmidt) in fighting form



BBC'S 24K. Kara Tolentino, the scene's favorite fag-net



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STORM SEDUCTION. AA Arquiza loves her Cuervo!

RAISING THE BAR. Juliet Tan, half of the DAACS designing duo all aboard the love boat



MOULIN ROUGE. Free makeovers from Patrick Rosas at Fidel

OOPPS! SORRY. Last week's gay scene photos (we forgot to put his credits) and this week's Pride shots were taken by our favorite pacesetter Eddie Boy Escudero



LOVE BOAT. Rajo Laurel with Mimi and Juliet Tan and Katrina Lagman

Got Pride?

By Tim Yap
Photos by Eddie Boy Escudero

People smooching in the streets, guzzling Cuervo shots while pumping fists in the air to the DJs' beats—it was fun and fab across the Maria Orosa strip as "sailors" hopped "All Aboard the White Party!"

Gay and straight mixed and matched on the streets and filled up the joints in the creative center of downtown Manila. Students, yuppie types, bar and partyphiles, fashionistas, cross dressers, fag nets and fag stags were all there to be counted.

"Free to be you and me, baby!" The stars of the street would have to be Angelo Villanueva, a.k.a. Supermodel Diva, who romped with Muscle Marys on one stage; and poster boy JR Isaac, who flexed his pecs on the other.

Fidel provided the best view of the revelry, with its fab second-floor area where sceneresters chose to be, to get the best piece of the action. A smattering of celebrities from the fashion and film circles let it all loose. I spotted macquillage master Patrick Rosas applying red, red lipstick to those that caught his eye, while a popular personality kissed everyone on the lips.

In Bed, there was no view of anything from the street, but nobody seemed to mind, as the club was packed, packed, packed! I caught another popular designer in a passionate moment with someone he just met, but that's another story. Both hot spots (Fidel and Bed) exuded fun and frolicsome vibes, nothing stuffy or pretentious. Music was pumped up and the energy got higher as the night progressed.

"This has been the best Pride, ever!" exclaimed Markus Schmidt as he hopped from bar to street. Another friend probed the night's attendance. "They're either really straight, or they're out-and-out gay." The sexually ambiguous were absent, of course (you know who you are). Except for Wilma Doesnt and Jaya, glitz biz denizens were nowhere.

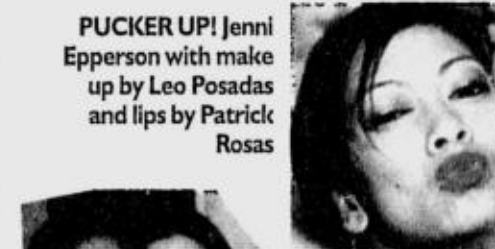
"I'm really gay-friendly, but I don't want any rumors," said a show biz personality, who could actually be gay, and who shall remain anonymous, at least in this article.

A partyphile commented: "Who cares about who aren't there? Looking at this crowd—the ones who chose to show up and enjoy, and be proud of who they are—are the ones that matter."

Everyone, forward march!

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SAILOR MOON. Yvonne Kuinisala chilling at Fidel

FEATHERED FLOCK. Manny Castañeda does role play

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SATURDAY



MAKATI CINEMANILA

Exploring Pink and Controversial Films

By Beia Formoso

"In a hundred years of movies, homosexuality has only rarely been depicted on the screen. When it did appear, it was there as something to laugh at—or something to pity—or even something to fear. These were fleeting images, but they were unforgettable..."—Vito Russo, author of "The Celluloid Closet"

THE BEST friend who gives sound advice, the drag queen who always has a witty remark, the cute girl who just happens to like other girls, the psychopathic killers.

There's just no escaping the stereotype gay and lesbian characters in popular movies.

Rupert Everett's scene-stealer in "My Best Friend's Wedding" was the most recent landmark role. The gay best friend was a pivotal character in succeeding movies such as "The Next Best Thing," "Woman on Top," and "The Object of My Affection." Before then, gay characters were mostly just flamboyant, big-haired (and sometimes big-chested) drag queens. Remember "The Birdcage," "To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! Julie Newmar," and "The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert?"

As for the lesbian characters, everyone falls in love with them—for example, Amy in "Chasing Amy," Maxine in "Being John Malkovich." Then there are the homosexual psychopaths of the murdering kind, like the ones in "Basic Instinct" and "The Silence of the Lambs."

Just as gays and lesbians are stereotyped in films, so too are their relationships. Movies like "Philadelphia" and "Boys Don't Cry" often portray homosexual relationships as controversial, or as issues. Rarely are these connections shown for what they really, simply are—love stories, romantic encounters, meaningful interactions.

Overlooked

Thankfully, there are a number of notable films in an overlooked genre of cinema that dare to challenge the norm: "Happy Together," "Billy's Hollywood Screen Kiss," and "Wild Reeds."

Also in this list is Stanley Kwan's "Lan Yu," which marks its Philippine premiere at the 5th annual Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival. This gay romance from Hong Kong tells the story of Lan Yu, a poor Beijing university student, and his chance meeting with the older and successful Handong, which leads to a life-altering sexual initiation.

Lan Yu falls deeply in love as Handong showers him with expensive gifts, in spite of the older man's insistence that he is not looking for a life-long companion. An Official Selection at Cannes, "Lan Yu" has screened in over 45 international exhibitions, including the prestigious Sundance, Toronto, London, Rotterdam, Göteborg, Thessaloniki, and Tokyo Filmex film festivals. It has also won seven awards, including the Taipei Golden Horse for Best Director, Best Actor, Best Screenplay, Best Editing, and Audience Award.

Provocative

The Asian premiere of "Swimming Pool," the latest by celebrated French director Francois Ozon, is also scheduled during Makati Cinemanila. "Swimming Pool" is a provocative film that tackles the relationship between two women. Sarah is a rigid and conservative, yet successful, mystery writer whose life and new novel take a dramatic turn when she meets her publisher's sexy, free-spirited daughter, Julie. The first of Ozon's movies to be made in English, "Swimming Pool" had its world premiere at the recent Cannes International Film Festival.

Makati Cinemanila has always heralded the new and alternative in world cinema by screening movies that would otherwise never be shown in the Philippines. The Academy Award-nominated "Y Tu Mama Tambien," a milestone movie that touched upon homosexuality and starred Mexican it-boy Gael Garcia Bernal, for one. The coming-of-age tale of a sexy threesome embarking on the road trip of their lives drew gasps from audiences when a scene of two boys kissing flashed before their eyes.

"Peony Pavilion," the breakthrough film

from China by director Yon Fan, is a love story between female cousins. The film won Best Picture at the 13th Milan and Bologna International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, and was declared Best Picture in Time magazine's Best Films of 2001.

Last year, Makati Cinemanila presented "Erotic Tales," a renowned series of short films created by Regina Zeigler who claims, "If it's not erotic, it's not interesting." This year, the festival brings "Erotic Tales" back, with the Asian premiere of "Porn.com" by Bob Rafelson, "An Erotic Tale" by Dito Tsintsadze, and "Did You Ever Have Sex Like This?" by Justin Leonard Stauber. This controversial series explores the erotic and sensual in both hetero and homosexual encounters.



"Lan Yu": He's come undone

Founded in 1999, Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival is an annual project of the City of Makati under Mayor Jejomar C. Binay and the Independent Cinema Association of the Philippines (ICAP) founded by Amable "Tikoy" Aguiluz VI.

The 5th MCIFF runs Aug. 7 to 24, 2003 at the Greenbelt Cinemas in Makati City.

For more information on Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival, log on to www.cinemamania.com.ph

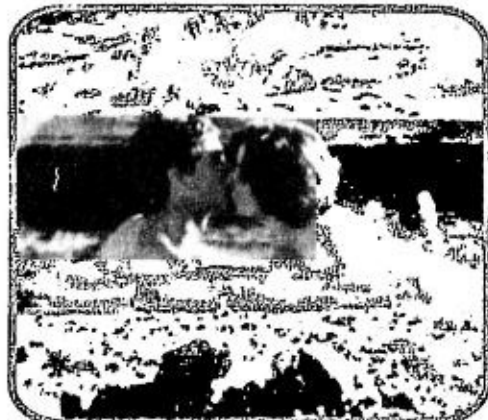


Ludvine Sagnier stars in "Swimming Pool"

Rarely are gay relationships presented in movies as they really, simply, are—love stories, romantic interludes, and meaningful interactions

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"Erotic Tales: Did You Ever Have Sex Like This?" We think not.



INSPIRATION SANDWICH

Epy Quizon's tormented — and colorful — life

By Tim Yap

IN search.

This pretty much sums up Jeffrey Quizon's current state. "You know that lonely void, that empty space—I don't know if it's gonna end."

Epy gives me that stare. Intense. Looking for answers.

Not to say that he is not happy about his life. Far from it. He broke into the scene as an artist, mounting one exhibit after another of his colorful art, in which he used friends' naked bodies as canvas for his "long wave ultra violet reflected photography."

He painted on the bods and photographed them in UV light. The result: a

spectrum of colors that could rival the rainbow.

With a cult following among the artsy celebrity set, Epy's works became highly visible and much sought after. "We have a Warhol in our midst," was how one scene observer put it.

He then pursued movies, earning the critics' nod on his first attempt, landing one role after another. A spattering of awards and citations, movies and TV shows later, he is still on a roll.

From his gay man in "Markova," for which he is best remembered, Epy moved on to heavier, more challenging characters—a tormented fan in "Radyo," a comic villain in "Lastikman." To an impressive extent, Epy has been pushing the envelope with his irreverent way of

doing things.

Again, not to say that he has forgotten his art. On this page, he reverts to his first craft of choice. He uses slide-projected images of ultra violet-reflected photography on human subjects, this time using his friend, Gio Alvarez' face as canvas.

With the whole gamut of funky interests that Epy has pursued (he has also formed a musician-poets' group called Makata), he could be easily dismissed as the village eccentric. He shrugs this off: "That is a preconception. I'm just normal, really."

Spending time with his eight-year-old son is what gives him a high these days. "I'm really passionate about him."

Which is essentially the same way he is about his art, his acting, his life. He

looks up, and says, "Can't live it any other way."

Define your art.

My art is my expression of self.

Where do you draw inspiration from?

My son.

The gay scene—headed forward or backward?

Headed forward. We have more voices from the gay society, *mas matapang sila ngayon*. The scene is more open.

Young society is...

Smarter. Full of energy. And definitely living a fast paced life. *Ang bilis tumanda ng bata. Ang bilis, bilis, bilis.*

Favorite subjects? Medium?

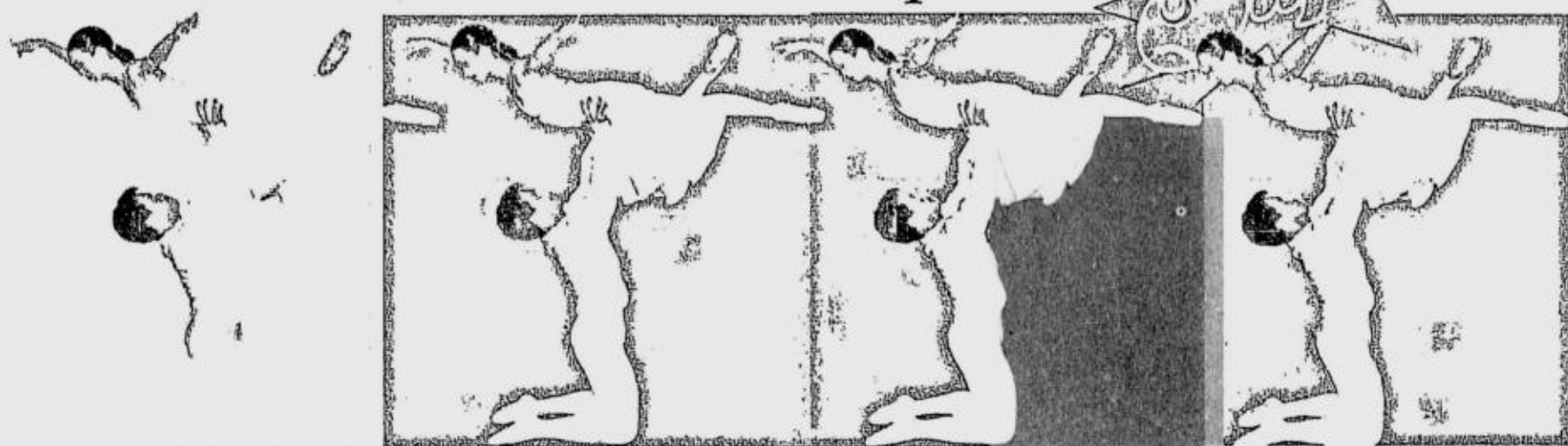
Friends. Filmmaking.

Current obsession

A group that me and my friends Ira Cruz, Norris Lopez, Vic Mercado, Nathan Azarcon, Gio Alvarez, Ronnie and Dos Quizon and a lot more are forming called Makata. It's about several *makatas* celebrating the poetry of life given to us by one true Makata.

How does your work relate to the pursuit of pride?

Since my art is the expression of myself, it is my pride. No matter how people see it—and this is true, I guess, for almost everyone of us after expressing our true selves, not just guy or girl, gay or straight, Christian or Muslim—this is the spectrum of life. We live in a black and white world—the extremes, the good and the bad—yet the most important thing is to live a colorful life in between.



"COZ everything is beautiful at the ballet..."

Romeo & Juliet reloaded

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS



By Joyce C. Abaño

THE SHAKESPEAREAN love story about Romeo Montague and Juliet Capulet has been interpreted more than a hundred times as a theatrical play, ballet, and film. Now, this drama that took place in 14th century-Verona, Italy, is being staged as a ballet yet again at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on July 4, 5 and 6, with choreography by the late Thomas Pazik, and set to the resonating sounds of Sergei Prokofiev's score, probably the most widely known of the enduring tale's many musical interpretations.

Presented by the Philippine Ballet Theater, this version is given an interesting twist manifest in the dancers' expressions, slight variations in the music and movements, and subtleties in the costume design. Gener Caringal, PBT artistic director, was fearless in allowing his performers to both dance and act.

As in most classical ballets, all ballerinas in this presentation dance on *pointe*. But unlike the traditional choreography where the wealth of dancing is only for a few principals, Pazik's work provides even the *corps de ballet* with challenging work. Thus, their artistry and technique are apparent in the crowd scenes, the Capulet ball, the sword fights and other additional not-so-subtle scenes.

Cathee Lee-Roslovtssev, who played Juliet in last night's gala, had prepared long and hard for a convincing and laudable performance. Her technique may be nowhere near prima ballerina Maniya Barredo's or Lisa Macuja's, but she exudes a youthful grace and exuberance that makes her onstage presence distinctive. One would discover in her rapid *fouettés*, graceful *pirouettes*, the geometry of her *arabesques*, the sweep of her arms, and her *cambré* the dance images that illustrate the conflict of Shakespeare's masterpiece—youthful passion and tragic pain of

FAMED balcony-scene *pas de deux*



death. The Juliet role will be performed by Lea Baduria tomorrow night.

Dynamic, forceful

Ronilo Jaynario as Romeo renders dynamic and forceful *cabrioles* but lacks the bearing and personality required of this hero. He easily fades in the background with every *corps* of the ballet, and his technique may be found a little wanting. He shares the role with Lucas Jacinto who will be Lea Baduria's Romeo in tomorrow night's performance.

Stephen Cafiete is a very convincing Tybalt, arrogant and sure of himself, but his leaps and *cabrioles* need more work. A slight flaw in his acting is his lack of hesitation and remorse in his slaying of Mercutio, which is discernible in the original play itself.

In Act I, Juliet's youthful vitality is noticeable in her sprightly steps; jumps, *chassé-relevé*, *grand jetés* and some such combined dance movements. Juliet's parents enter the scene with Paris (Sydney Ignacio), her intended; the girl is uninterested. Here the ballet shows a little inconsistency because in the masque scene a little later, she shows some deference to Paris in their *pas de deux*. How unlike Juliet.

Juliet's *pas de deux* with Romeo during the masque ball is poignant, showing her transition from carefree adolescent to young lady in love.

The famed balcony scene is glorious and stirring. Lee-Roslovtssev's number of *arabesques* in this scene reflects providential harmony, which manifests the Elizabethan idea of passion stilled by reason. Her *cambré* back in the later parts of this scene illustrates Juliet's surrender to ecstasy and passion. Romeo and Juliet's *pas de deux* here is explosive, lithe and lyrical, giving the first act a surprisingly impressive end.

Undiminished appeal

The second act unfolds at the Town Square of Verona. The towns-

people are dancing, and Romeo enters the scene like a lovesick pup. Juliet's nurse delivers a letter asking Romeo to meet her at the church. This scene ends with the two lovers joined in marriage by Friar Lawrence.

As the street dancing continues, Romeo's friend Mercutio taunts Tybalt into a duel, and dies in the sword fight that ensues. Romeo avenges his death and, as punishment, is being banished to another town.

Act three opens with the lovers in grief, because Romeo must leave Verona forever. Friar Lawrence offers to help, giving Juliet a potion that will put her in a death-like sleep—part of a plan for her and Romeo to leave Verona together.

The whole world knows by now how this story ends.

Prokofiev's compelling music builds up towards the end where it sonically fuses the image of love with death. Subtle, but important, side-dramas give the production substance and depth, and the best parts of the choreography happens in several *pas de deux* designed for Romeo and Juliet.

As a whole, the production may seem wanting in parts, but this story is always appealing. Ballet production is a full-scale challenge. Caringal and his assistant Lisa dela Fuente, have done a fine job with this one.

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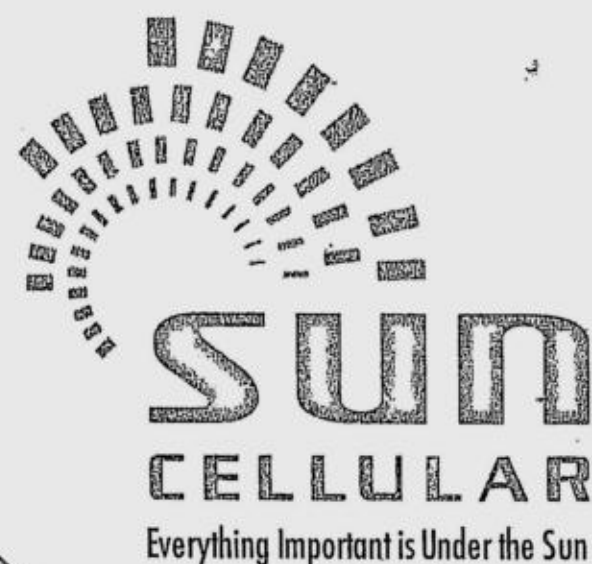
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SATURDAY Super

Ai Ai de las Alas



with

las Alas



9:02 a.m. Ai Ai was up by 8:30, getting ready for an early taping. Now she is ready to leave the house, clad in a baby tee, jeans and sneakers. Her hair is still wet, her face free of makeup.

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

A FORTUNETELLER once told me that I was a queen in my past life," Ai Ai de las Alas said in Pilipino, as we drove from her house in Diliman to the ABS-CBN studios where she would be working the whole day. "And then, the fortuneteller said, 'One day, you're going to be a queen again.'"

These glimpses of the past and future were laid out before her by a seer she consulted ages ago, before she even started making movies. Now the words have acquired a ring of truth for Ai Ai, whose latest film, "Tanging Ina," became a blockbuster, earning her a niche among show biz royalty. Some people have started referring to her as The Comedy Queen. "Akala ko naman totoong queen," Ai Ai said. "Hindi pala."

She has seized her moment. After countless television shows, live shows, concerts and movie stints, after making countless people laugh, and even while she still battles entertainment writers who feed on her personal life, Ai Ai is finally getting what is due her. Recognition. Respect. Not from everyone, though. Certainly not from people incapable of being happy for others. But she refuses to let them bother her any more.

Spending time with her revealed two things, primarily, to us. One, that she works hard—shuttling from one studio to another, making sure she's ready with her lines, going through costume and makeup changes with ease, and releasing real energy even during rehearsals. And two, that people love her.

"Miss A," "Miss Ai," they called out to her—everyone, from colleagues and friends to fans, personal assistants and house help. They kissed and hugged her and fawned all over her.

This kind of love doesn't come only with one hit movie.

Ai Ai may not see herself as a "real" queen, but sometimes, reel is as real as it gets.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph



9:07 a.m. She sits comfortably in her car's back seat as the driver weaves through the morning traffic from Diliman to ABS-CBN. She speaks softly, sporadically singing along with a rap number being played on radio.

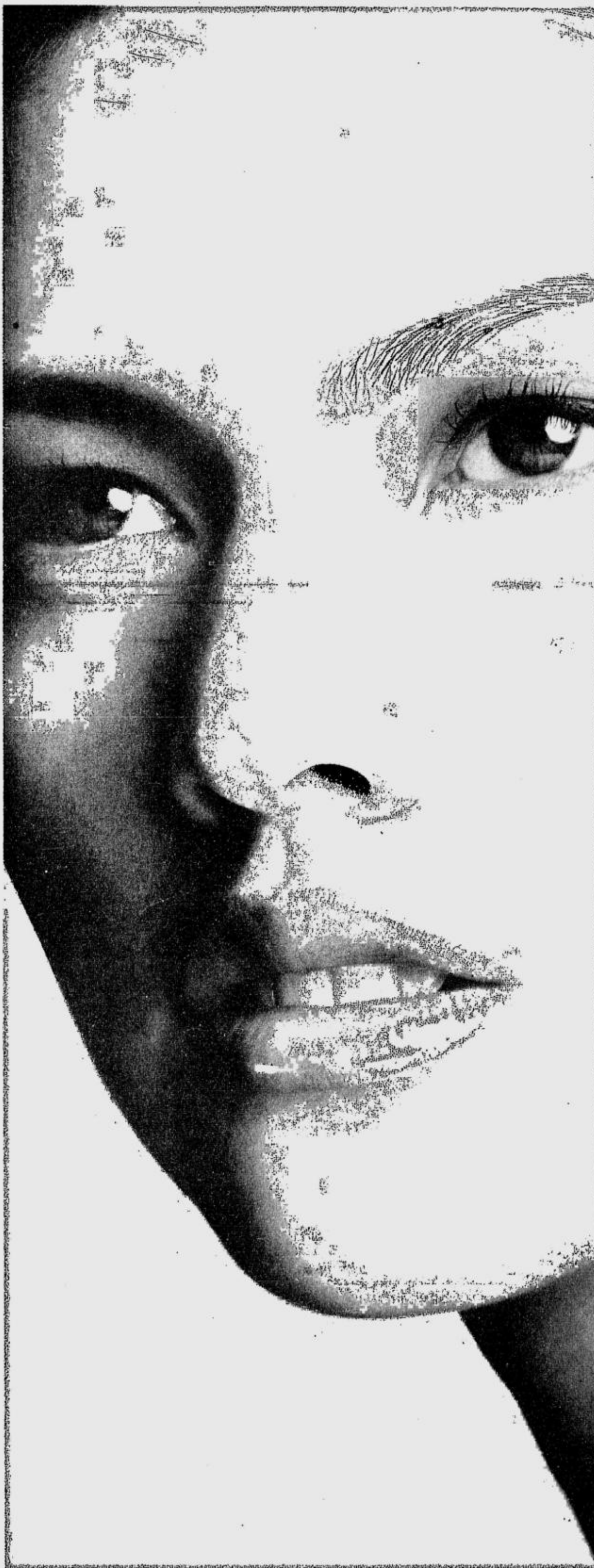
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24 HOURS

with Ai

Alas

From page H1



9:21 a.m. She arrives at the ABS-CBN compound. As we pass by the audience entrance, she wonders, "Bakit ang daming tao?"



9:23 a.m. She is greeted by Dominic Ochoa, Vhong Navarro and the director of "MTB" who are hanging out at Starbucks.



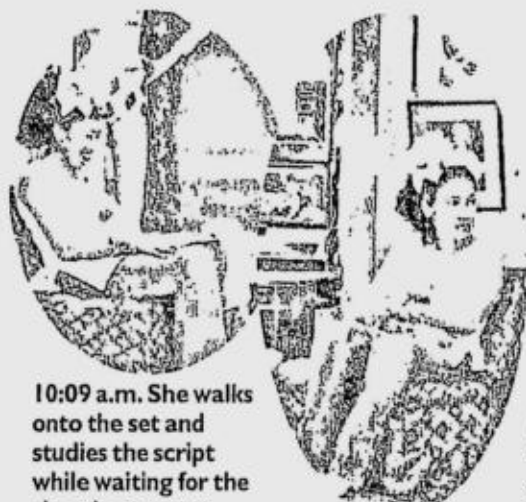
9:27 a.m. Ai Ai walks into the studio of "Whattamen," one of her weekly sitcoms.



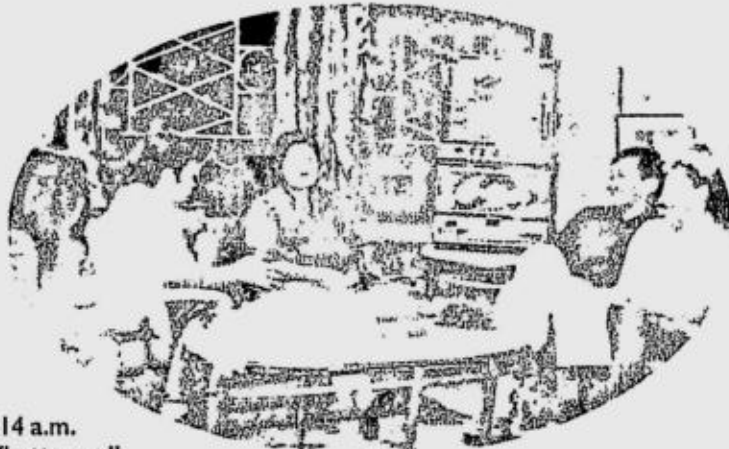
9:30 a.m. She sits down for makeup. But the power dies in the room, and they move to another location.



9:56 a.m. Ai Ai finishes her makeup and hair in this makeshift dressing room. She begins choosing clothes for the first scene. Manang Mers shows her a headdress made of fabric flowers.



10:09 a.m. She walks onto the set and studies the script while waiting for the shooting to start.



10:14 a.m. "Whattamen" cast members joke around.



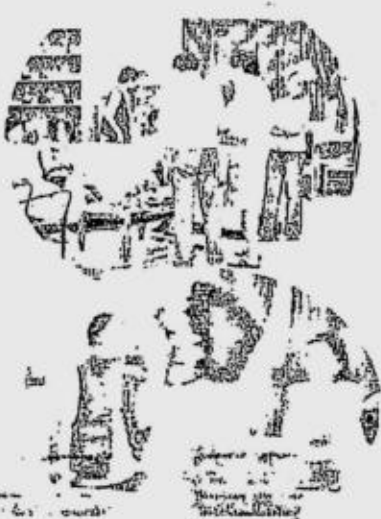
10:20 a.m. Ai Ai starts rehearsing her lines with the rest of the cast. In the first scene, she gets mad at guest star Jay Manalo for thinking she is married to the barangay captain played by Sammy Lagmay. Once on the set, Ai Ai is a mass of boundless energy, not holding back even during practice, and laughing at other people's punchlines.



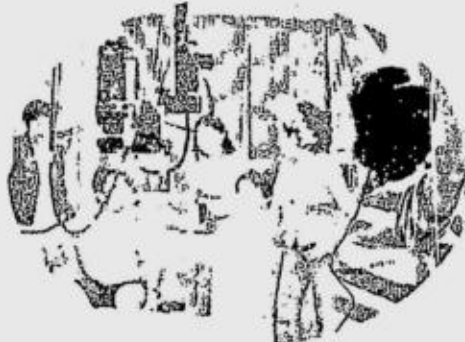
10:23 a.m. Cameras roll for the first scene. After barely 10 minutes, the take is finished.



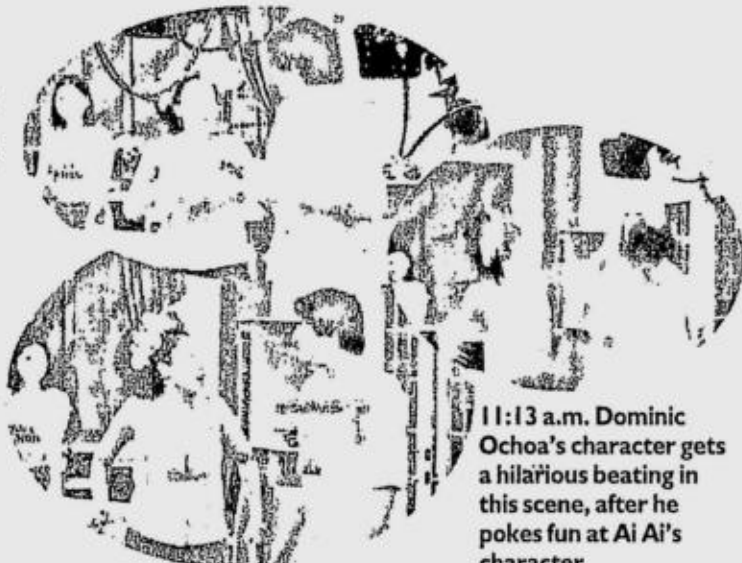
10:52 a.m. Dressed for the second scene, Ai Ai sits down in her make-believe living room and studies her lines.



11 a.m. The actors rehearse lines for the second scene.



11:10 a.m. Shooting of the second scene starts.



11:13 a.m. Dominic Ochoa's character gets a hilarious beating in this scene, after he pokes fun at Ai Ai's character.

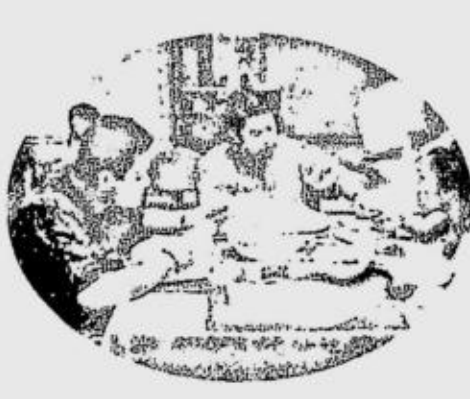
She is truly loved by the people around her. This kind of love doesn't come only with one hit movie



11:25 a.m. Ai Ai hurriedly leaves the "Whattamen" set to go to the dressing room at the "MTB" studio. She gets ready for her hosting job on the popular and controversial noontime show.



11:50 a.m. As Ai Ai sits down to eat, Piolo Pascual comes in and greets her with a kiss. "Hi, box office king!" she says to him warmly.



11:57 a.m. Ai Ai eats lunch with Dennis Padilla and Bayani Agbayani. Their conversation is easy and free-flowing.



12:09 p.m. In the middle of lunch, Ai Ai gets up for her first segment in the show. They announce that "Tanging Ina" made it to number one. The crowd hollers and cheers. Ai Ai beams.



12:31 p.m. Ai Ai is back in the dressing room. People stream in, wanting to meet her and be photographed with her.



12:39 p.m. She walks back into the studio to host "Jack En Poy," one of "MTB's" games. A persistent fan keeps yelling from the bleachers, "I love you, Ai!"



1:10 p.m. Back at the dressing room, Ai Ai cracks up at Dennis Padilla's antics.



1:20 p.m. A journalist comes in to interview Ai Ai. "Mahirap magpakatang-ina," she tells him.



1:30 p.m. Piolo chats with Ai Ai.



1:50 p.m. Three players from the Ateneo Blue Eagles walk into the dressing room. Ai Ai introduces one of them as her occasional boyfriend. Everyone plays along.



1:58 p.m. Ai Ai goes out to the "MTB" studio once again to host the Feeling F4 contest.



2:10 p.m. After one more segment, Ai Ai leaves the "MTB" dressing room to go back to the other building where the "Whattamen" set is. She runs into a friend, who envelopes her in a tight embrace.



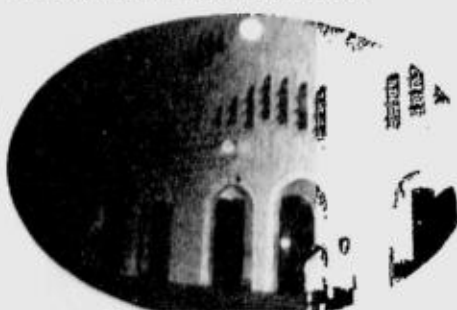
4:15 p.m. At the "Whattamen" set, Ai Ai jokes around with her PA Lance.



4:23 p.m. Ai Ai paces on the set, waiting for shooting to start again. At 4:50 p.m. The shooting continues.



9:38 p.m. On the road again, bound for Baclaran church.



10:05 p.m. Before going home to finally rest and be with her children, Ai Ai ends her day with a visit to Baclaran church, where she says her prayers.





SMILE AND POUT.
Cris Villonco and KC
Concepcion

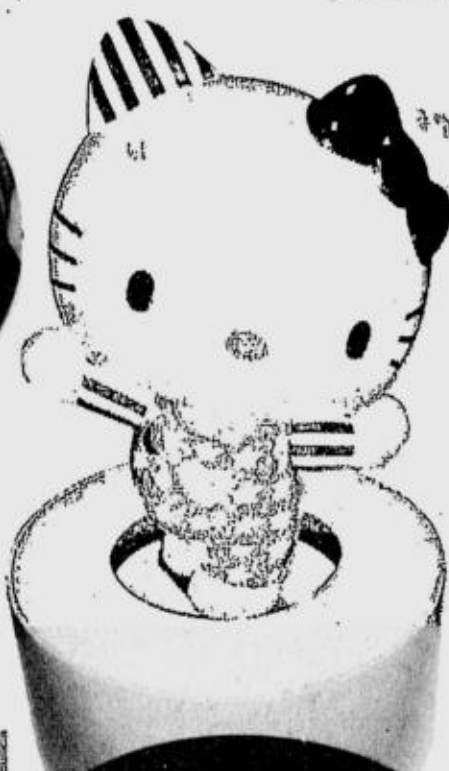
GO FOR
GOLD. Dodot
and Mikee
Jaworski



TEDDY Boy and
Louie Locsin
share some Hello
Kitty pop corn



SEA PRINCESS AND KITTY QUEEN. Tessa
Valdes and Virgie Ramos, full throttle



Hello Kitty, goodbye Steph, and welcome Jose!

KITTY couture conquers the runways! Scantly clad models romped down the catwalk in Hello Kitty-inspired garb—micro, micro minis, corset tops and leather loin cloths—with Kitty necklaces, pendants and other too-cute-to-be-true accessories.

One by one, "It" siblings Paris and Nicky Hilton, bare-breasted drag diva Amanda Lepore and other sexy celebrities graced the stage in their favorite Kitty thingamagigs. It was "Kitty-for-adults-hits-the-ramp."

The scene was straight out of Manila, not Paris, London or New York—but only as I watched a fashion video looped onto a Hello Kitty TV set at the lobby of My Cinema at Greenbelt. "If this were done here, we'd be there onstage," I whispered to iconic Tessa Prieto-Valdes, my constant partner-in-crime. "Yeah!" she agreed.

When we're together, modesty flies out the window.

For a while I was so absorbed by the images, I forgot I was in a Virgie Ramos function—a la-la land of fabulous people, from politicians (only the hip ones) to pop stars to celebrities and media hotshots, who took time out to watch the film of the moment, "Charlie's Angels Full Throttle."

Kit and the cat

The private cinema was transformed into the Hello Kitty Theater, where an exhibit of Kittygraphs of collectible items adorned the lobby. Pardon me while I go Kitty crazy.

Here in Kitty land, everyone becomes a kid again, enjoying endless sweets, a buffet of treats, countless photo ops and giveaways galore! I spotted Martin Nievera, looking fresh and refreshed from his US success and wearing a jacket that absolutely bowled me over—a prized 1977 Kitty, what a cutie (pun not intended)!

He was chatting with Jose Llana who, my friend, Tater ed in chief

Anton San Diego, adores...for his singing talent. I must say I agree. I went to his concert last Tuesday at the ballroom of Westin, and Jose took the audience by storm, as they say, dishing out successive goosebumps with suave renditions of Broadway standards, and hitting spine-tingling high notes.

I almost shed a tear with his version of Stevie Wonder's "Lately." What I didn't notice was that Jose also cried when he spoke of his mom and grandmother. "What a darling!" Fab, fab lipo lady Vicki Belo, who applauded every number, exclaimed. More to come from this crooner, definitely.

Juicy tubes

I also saw my favorite, KC Concepcion, at the screening. We were both wearing red Juicy hoodies, which served us well, as it became freezingly cold inside the theater. I was reminded of the fun we had during last week's despedida for her pal, co-"It" chick Stephanie Zubiri, at Dencio's in Rockwell.

Steph, KC and their buddy Alex Escat (the girl on the posters of Pond's and Magnolia "Sige na, indulge" ads) are all set to fly to Europe to pursue higher learning. Bravo to broadening horizons! "So what was your favorite scene?" KC asked as we savored a vanilla drumstick (I told her this was the best way to fight the cold) afterwards. I wanted to say it was the Rydell High "cock and beaver" scene, or all the fashion twists and turns, or even Jaclyn Smith's surprise Adobe photo-shopped "angel appearance."

But clearly, it was Demi's moment: "I'm not good (tears in her eyes as she aims her gun at the box)...I'm great."

Now, what could be better than that?

Tim Yap

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

WITH MOMMY
DEAREST. Jose L.
with Regina
Tolentino Newpor



KITTY KITS. Rissa
Samson in a Kitty
collectible necklace

FUN, FEARLESS
AND
FASHIONABLE.
Kate Torralba and
Myrza Sison



SHINING STARS.
Glenn Gale and
Maurice Arcache at
the Westin concert



MAKATI'S FINEST.
Gilbert and Nancy
Binay-Angeles



FASHION
SOCIETY.
Anton San
Diego, Sari
Yap and
Lorraine
Belmonte



THREE TENORS.
Tim Yap (ahem),
Martin Nievera and
Jose Llana



POWER FOUR.
Doris Ho, Anton San
Diego, Vicki Belo and
JM Rodriguez



ELITE FORCE.
Ernest Escaler
at the after-
concert party



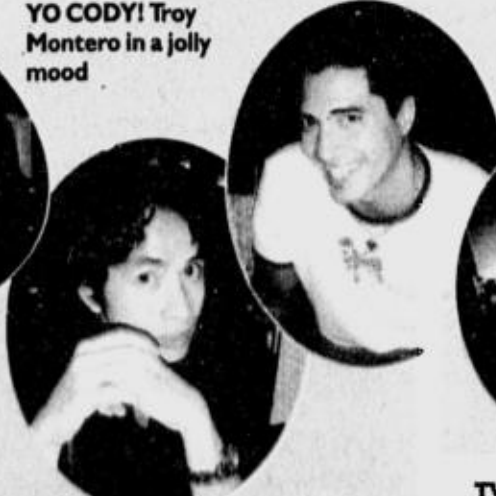
STYLE
SURPLUS. Mel
Meer and Atom
Henares



PEACE BRO! Dale
Villar at Ice Vodka
Bar



YO CODY! Troy
Montero in a jolly
mood



BON VOYAGE.
Steph Zubiri, here
with Martin de
Guzman



MUSIC MAN. Rico Blanco at Dencio's

TWICE AS NICE. Alex
Escat and Tina Pamintuan



GROUP FUN. JM
Rodriguez, KC
Concepcion and
Stephanie Zubiri at
the despedida



SUPER! loves
Concepcion

Seeing only White at the end of the tunnel

WHILE window-shopping at my favorite local health store last week, I came across it.

Whitening pills. Bottled capsules that actually promise to change the skin's color by inhibiting melanin production. A perky saleslady, picking up my wide-eyed bewilderment, gleefully announced, "Ma'am, that's our top selling product!" Apparently, it is snapped up by hordes of anxious Pinays as though these were bottled miracles straight from Heaven, a place presumably populated with fair-skinned angels and Caucasian cherubs. I politely but firmly shook my head, said "No," and left the store feeling a slight disturbance in the Force. I couldn't help but ask myself: am I a part of a dying breed, Pinay girls who are still proud of being *morena*?

I guess I actually believed the story of creation told to me ages ago in grade school, about God as a baker creating the whole human race in His oven. The first batch of human cookies was under-baked. These were supposed to be the first prototypes of the Caucasian race. The second batch was left in the oven a little longer than necessary (perhaps God was having too much fun rolling up dough eels, and lost track of the time) and was burned. This became the African race. On His third try, God finally got a nice, chocolate-brown outcome. The batch was immediately dispatched to the still unnamed group of islands in the soon-to-be Pacific Ocean as the progenitors of the Filipino race.

I realize you can't tell this creation myth today without opening up a whole can of worms on political correctness, but at least back then it really made an impression on me. I truly felt blessed to be brown. (I did wonder, though, why God wasn't too good at baking when He's supposed to be perfect).

Maybe that little story should be told to more young Pinays today, because apparently there are multitudes who cough up good money (those pills were over P2,000!) in the hope that they would turn white. A whole range of skin whiteners—bleaching soaps, lotions, creams, serums—are likewise best sellers in the local market.

OUT THE WINDOW

Tals Diaz

Citing a recent survey, *Cosmopolitan* magazine's Beauty editor Ianne Sison revealed that the biggest beauty "problem" that many Filipinas lost sleep over was how to whiten up. She said she received tons of letters from girls who said they suffered in long-sleeved shirts and jeans because they didn't want their arms and legs to be exposed to the sun. Just as many others said they were ashamed to wear shorts or mini-skirts because their legs were too dark.

I have learned that the saddest part is that these perceptions arise mostly from the skewed viewpoints of parents who call their dark-skinned children "*maitim*" as an insult, cultivating a mindset that equates brown skin to ugliness.

How can you blame these girls then? On top of parental pressure, they are also fed blatant endorsements in some terrible ads out on TV that proclaim white is beautiful, and that the fairer they were, the more successful they would be.



IS white might?

Skin-whitening products are snapped up by anxious Pinays as though these were bottled miracles.

"As a beauty editor, it pains me to encounter girls who really believe their love life would improve if their skin became lighter," Ianne added. "For me, color means health. And looking radiant is not necessarily about the whiteness of skin, but health and skin care. Even the fairest complexion can look ruddy when it isn't healthy."

One commercial that saddens me more than others is the one where a bridesmaid who had used miraculous Skin Whitening Product X suddenly became the groom's object of affection! It's a resurgence of white supremacist thinking, except this time it is backed up with a huge media spending budget and primetime viewership. I can't even call it subliminal transmission. Most of the ads openly declare that white is right!

I have nothing against wanting to be more attractive. I'm all for the magic of makeup and cosmetic surgery, in fact, if one believed it would make her look better. I have nothing against being white, either, for I truly find beauty in racial diversity—white, black, brown, heck if you were orange I'd invite you to my place for a beer!

What I am very much against goes far beyond skin deep: the screwed up psyche that colored complexion is inferior, and that the only way to get ahead in the world (and with boys) is to be fair-skinned.

Yet what can you do? A sudden paradigm shift is nowhere in the horizon today. I am

just one of few, feeble voices in the wilderness up against the chimera of Colonial Mentality. Just as I acknowledge that there are no masters if there are no slaves, I maintain that there will be no corporate conglomerates mass-peddling skin whiteners if there are no girls out there who want to see only white at the end of the tunnel.

Thus, in the spirit of the if-you-can't-beat-'em-join-'em philosophy, allow me to offer my own immodest proposal to the powers-that-be, or to anyone who sets out to exploit this lucrative market of wannabe-whites.

Michael Jackson vaccinations
Since the King of Pop continues to claim to this day that his bleached look is actually a rare skin disease, why doesn't someone actually procure this virus, cultivate it, and package them in plastic syringes for sale at P30 per 100 pieces in Divisoria, and sell them? Start with flea markets and bazaars, or market them in packets of three at drug stores and sari-sari stores. One press release sent to editors of beauty magazines in the country, and the MJ Shot will sell like hotcakes! Had someone thought of this decades ago, it might have arrested Apartheid in South Africa.

Whitening Sugar
Since it's been established that there are now edible ways to whiten up, why don't we produce glutathione amino acid, the melanin-inhibiting substance in oral whitening medications, in sugared form? Then it can be combined with ice cream products, hard candy and fruit juices... the possibilities are endless! Imagine the profit margins from affordable *polvoron* that makes you white!

White Parties
Why not make an event of it? Invite your closest friends to dinner, served with white wine, of course, then enjoy the full range of skin-whitening desserts, like White Forest cake. After which everyone can bring out their MJ syringes and shoot up for a good cause.

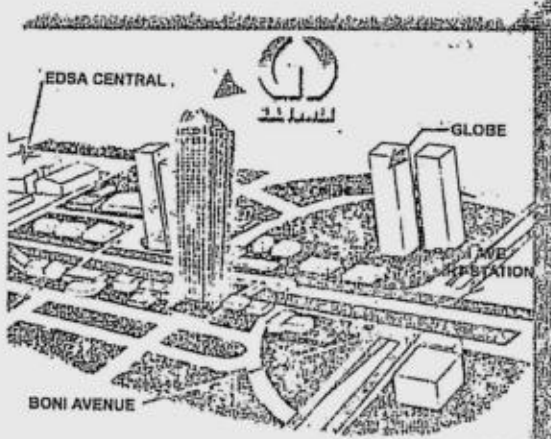
Pre-Natal Whitening Surgery
Why wait until your baby is old enough to discern color? Why not start early, maybe in the fertilization stage, and undergo zygote-whitening operations to ensure that your child will be born fair? The operation might involve DNA manipulation, perhaps even some genetic mutation, and will surely be costly, but won't it all be worth it in the long run?

Email the author at: inca_orange@yahoo.com

A new lifestyle at the heart of EDSA

G.A. TOWER

G.A. TOWER: The housing project for the new Filipino



Located along EDSA near MRT Boni Ave. Station

Lying in the very heart of EDSA is a thirty-storey high-rise condominium building designed exclusively to provide for the needs of our working class Filipinos.

G.A. TOWER, a project of the GLOBE ASIATIQUE REALTY HOLDINGS CORPORATION (GARHC), in coordination with Pag-IBIG Fund, has capitalized on the basic advantage of this concept after a thorough review of what the Filipino market really needs... a

quality, affordable and safe home to live in.

Quality and luxury were the prime considerations of the company in conceptualizing and designing G.A. TOWER, which is evident through the grandeur façade, indoor cascading swimming pool and other first-class amenities such as an indoor gym, viewing deck, and many more.

On May 8, 2003, G.A. TOWER has signed a "TRUST AGREEMENT" between GARHC and THE LANDBANK OF THE PHILS nominating LAND BANK as the trustee of the fund.

A "CONSULTANCY AGREEMENT" with LEIGHTON CONTRACTORS (PHILS), one of the biggest construction companies based in Australia and who will serve as project consultant, was also signed last May 14, 2003.

In just 67 days, GARHC has already sold 600 regular units with prices ranging from P1.5 million to P1.9 million!

Delfin Lee, GARHC President said "We are on-track, even ahead of schedule. We will finish excavation by end of July and construction of the building will start on the first week of August 2003."

The completion of the project is expected by December 2005. Lee said that at the current rate of construction, "It may be finished four to five months earlier."

So, for those buyers who could not wait to move in, "good news await them because the units will be turned over before the target date of accomplishment."

Buyers may now visit the GA Tower showroom at #79 EDSA, MANDALUYONG (beside Signet) to have your contracts signed. You may also call us at 534-7777 anytime between 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Look for Jing, Leni or Theresa.

Due to the success of G.A. TOWER, GARHC will continue to provide the working class Filipino with quality projects at reasonable and affordable prices.

"Feel free to inquire about our other housing projects by getting in touch with or visiting our office," Lee said.

A joint project of:



*Available for Pag-IBIG financing, with 20% equity spread out over 36 months at Zero Interest

Globe Asiatic Realty Holding Corporation numbers 634-2471, 632-1350 and 637-3335-36; address W-1408 West Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center Rd., Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

